■ **Sports / A21**
Pistons force sudden death in NBA Finals

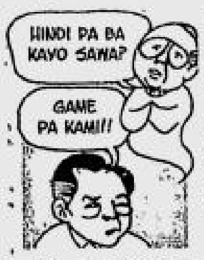
■ **Metro / A19**
Police blame Santiago family for snail-paced probe

■ **Business / B1**
Peso steady at 55.645:$1; HSBC forecasts rebound

■ **Sports / A23**
French Open champ exits Wimbledon

■ **Lifestyle / C1**
Slicing into the pizza market

Nene wants Edsa show to go on, but lead actor is gone


HINDI PA BA KAYO SAWA?
GAME PA KAMI!!

EVEN WITHOUT its leading actor, the Edsa show must go on.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., who took part in both People Power I and II that toppled two Philippine leaders,

NENE/ A7

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Thursday, June 23, 2005 ★★ 50 pages / 4 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 195 P18

SOME good tidings for a dire season. Robert Tarongoy, the accountant who was abducted and held by Iraqi militants for the past seven months, is free. PDI PHOTO

7-month ordeal over for Filipino hostage

By Christine O. Avendaño

ROBERT Tarongoy's seven-month ordeal ended yesterday when Iraqi militants released him from captivity in Iraq. It couldn't have come at a better time. Yesterday was his third wedding anniversary.

An elated President Macapagal-Arroyo, on a visit to Cebu, announced the release.

"At long last, Robert Tarongoy is on his way home after being gone for a long time," Ms Arroyo announced after attending Mass at the Adoration Convent of Divine Peace.

The 31-year-old Tarongoy, an accountant who worked for a Saudi firm based in Baghdad, was seized from his workplace along with an American colleague in November last year. The fate of the US national remains unknown.

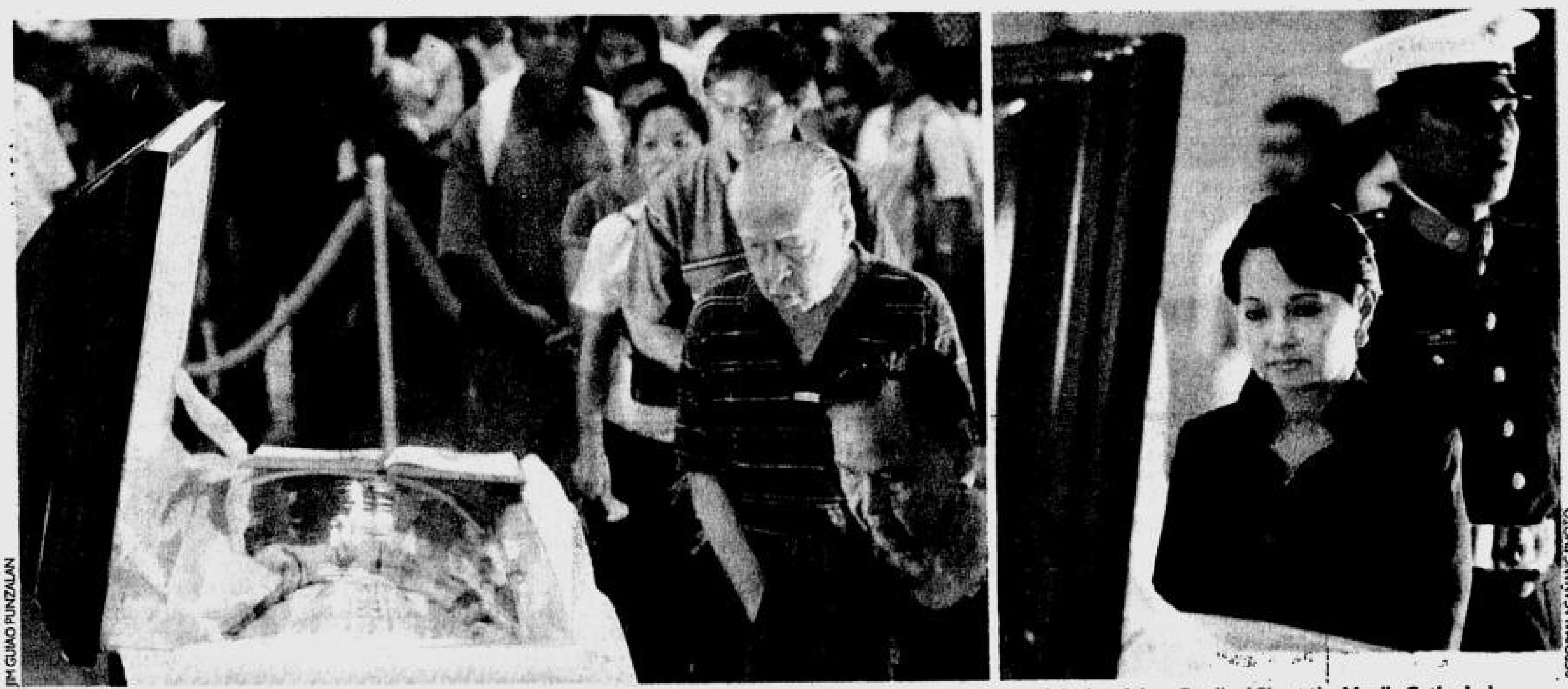
Tarongoy was the third Filipino abducted and released in the Middle East. Driver Angelo de la Cruz was abducted in Fallujah on July 4 last year and was released on July 20. On Oct. 28 last year, diplomat Angelito Nayan was seized in Afghanistan and was released less than a month later.

The President did not give any details of how Tarongoy got his freedom. She said Tarongoy was now in the custody of the government's Iraq

7-MONTH/ A6

VIPs, plain folk mourn

Gloria, Noli join line to pay last respects to Cardinal Sin



JM GUIAO PUNZALAN

POOL/MALACAÑANG PHOTO

THOUSANDS of Filipinos, led by a sad-eyed President Macapagal-Arroyo (right), file past the dark mahogany casket of the late Jaime Cardinal Sin at the Manila Cathedral yesterday. The cardinal's remains will be on public view until Tuesday when he is to be given state honors before being interred at the cathedral's underground crypt.

By Jerome Aning and Christian V. Esguerra

MOURNERS in the thousands yesterday paid their respects to the late Jaime Cardinal Sin, the moving force of Edsa I and II.

Busloads of students from Catholic schools, government workers and ordinary folk arrived in droves at the Manila Cathedral, where the body of the former archbishop of Manila lay in an open casket a day after he died at 76 from complications due to kidney problems and diabetes.

"Cardinal Sin is a monumental figure. He is an inspiration," said Renalyn Bay, a teacher who arrived with high school students from the Catholic-run Lourdes School. "His death, though it makes Filipinos sad, can produce greater blessing because of his example."

On Tuesday night, intermittent rain contributed to the somber mood as VIPs and ordinary people came to mourn.

President Macapagal-Arroyo arrived with her younger son Diosdado at around 10:15 p.m. and immediately joined the queue to view the cardinal's remains.

She waited in line for her turn, accompanied by Vice President Noli de Castro who arrived about 15 minutes earlier, before taking a seat at the front pew.

She stayed seated for about 30 minutes, talking with Sin's relatives and officials of the Manila

VIPS/ A6

The life and times of Jaime Cardinal Sin

THE TIMES were dynamic and from accounts, the life of the late Jaime Cardinal Sin was no less so.

His birth and that of his living siblings preceded by parental grief, and growing to adulthood and the priestly life during World War II, he was tested by fire and emerged sharp, stern and outspoken, but also full of humor—and grace.

In the article "Grace in the House of Sin" (Celebrity magazine, Oct. 15, 1979), Abe Florendo wrote of disorder and early sorrow in the family living in the improbably named town of New Washington in Aklan:

"The mother's milk was poisonous—but the doctors didn't know it. Child after child died soon after birth. But the sorrowful and perplexed couple were unfazed; they kept on blessing themselves with babies.

"The irony of the mother's life-giving breasts was discovered finally after the sixth child was born. With renewed enthusiasm they produced the seventh child, and the eighth, and so forth until the 16th child.

"The seventh of the living children went on to become, in the profound ways God guides the destinies of men, a servant of His people and a prince of His Church, Jaime Cardinal L. Sin.

"Dr. Ramon Sin, the cardinal's younger brother, chuckled when

THE LIFE/ A6

More Pinoys rate selves as poor—SWS

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Christine O. Avendaño and Connie E. Fernandez

MORE Filipino families are rating themselves poor as high prices erode their income.

A survey by Social Weather Stations in May showed that 57 percent of Filipino household heads regarded their households as poor, significantly higher than the 48 percent in a survey done two months earlier.

The survey also showed that 12 percent of Filipinos reported going hungry for at least one day in the last three months, the fifth straight quarter since March 2004 that the level of hunger had reached the double-digit mark.

In a statement, SWS said that just like the fiscal crisis facing the government, a record 58 percent of Filipino households were spending more than what they were earning. Only 3.5 percent said they had a surplus while 39 percent said they had a balanced budget.

"Economic conditions for the people continue to be harsh,"

MORE/ A4

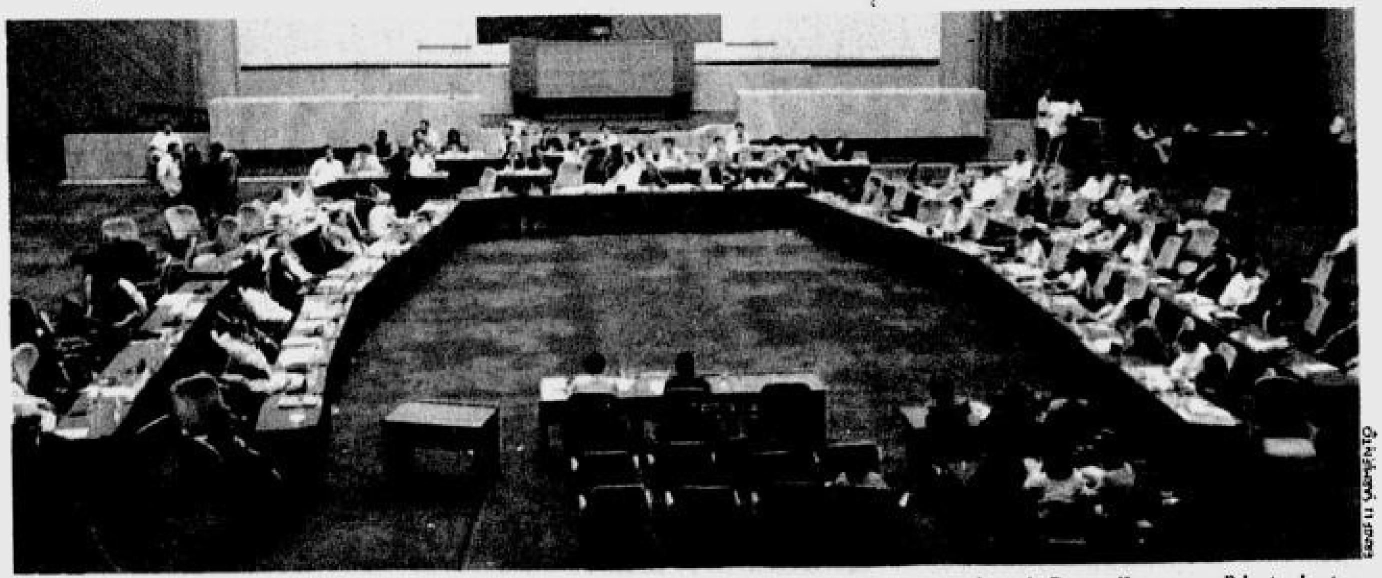
Solons can't pin down Bunye on 'Hello Garci' tape

By Michael Lim Ubac

LAWMAKERS failed yesterday to elicit confirmation from Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye that a voice in a wiretap belongs to President Macapagal-Arroyo, but the opposition scored a breakthrough when the joint House committee inquiry agreed to take custody of copies of the recording that could later be used as evidence.

Bunye continued his testimony on the second day of the nationally televised investigation called by five House committees, insisting that he cannot be sure that Ms Arroyo's is the woman's voice in the audio pressing a man, identified by the opposition as former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, for a one-million-vote

SOLONS/ A6



THE HOUSE hearing into the "Gloria-gate" scandal is shown taking the testimony of Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye (foreground) just minutes before the chamber erupted in a shouting match after a legislator produced a copy of the tape and demanded that it be played.

Bro. Eddie asks GMA to quit, if she's the one on tape

By Tarra V. Quismundo

AN EVANGELIST is seeking divine intervention to help the country survive a "crisis" triggered by the purported taped conversations between President Macapagal-Arroyo and an election official showing she had cheated in the May 2004 elections.

"If she was indeed the voice on the tape, I hope [Ms Arroyo] would discern if she still has moral ascendancy to govern," said Bro. Eddie Villanueva, president of the Bangon Pilipinas Movement, who heeded calls from his followers to cut short his trip to Israel and say his piece on current issues.

Only a leader who still has moral authority over the public may save the nation from "the verge of collapse," Villanueva said at a press conference yesterday afternoon. [Villanueva lost the presidential race in May 2004 to Ms Arroyo.]

But Ms Arroyo earlier said that it was God who put her in Malacañang. "I wish to be remembered as the one who made tough

BRO. EDDIE/ A7

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms. SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CYRIL L. BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/06/23/05

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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Second FRONT PAGE

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SC junks Barbers' bid to unseat Biazon

BIAZON

BARBERS

By Armand N. Nocum

THE SUPREME Court yesterday threw out the petition of former Sen. Robert Z. Barbers seeking to nullify a resolution of the Commission on Elections declaring Sen. Rodolfo G. Biazon as the duly elected 12th senator in the May 2004 elections.

The ruling came at a time when the Barbers-Biazon contest for the 12th spot figured in the allegedly wiretapped conversation between President Macapagal-Arroyo and an election official in the infamous "Gloria-gate" tapes.

The high tribunal dismissed Barbers' petition on the ground that the Supreme Court was the wrong venue for the filing of the petition.

The SC said the dispute fell under the sole jurisdiction of the Senate Electoral Tribunal as set out in the Constitution and the Revised Rules of the SET.

"For this court to take cognizance of the electoral protest against Biazon would usurp the constitutional functions of the SET," said the SC resolution penned by Associate Justice Antonio Carpio.

"The authority conferred upon the SET is categorical and complete. It is therefore clear that this court has no jurisdiction to entertain the instant petition," the high court said.

The SC also ruled that the Commission on Elections "did not commit any grave abuse of discretion in issuing the assailed resolution affirming Biazon's proclamation since the uncanvassed returns and the results of the election to be held would not materially affect the results of the elections."

In his petition, Barbers sought a temporary restraining and preliminary injunction to nullify the Comelec's July 6, 2004 resolution on the grounds that Biazon's proclamation was "illegal and premature being based on an incomplete canvass."

Biazon won against Barbers with a margin of 10,685 votes.

Barbers argued that at the time the proclamation was made, the votes from key areas in Mindanao had not yet been canvassed and that there were special elections yet to be held in certain areas.

But the high court accepted the Comelec's argument that by the time the proclamation was made, "the election returns not included in the national canvass as well as the results of the special elections to be held would not materially affect the results of the elections."

FOR PEACE AND PROSPERITY

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo toasts to visiting Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono during a state dinner in Malacañang Palace Tuesday night. PCPO MALACAÑANG

Garci tapes proved poll fraud, says Namfrel exec

By Alcuin Papa

THE ALLEGED "Hello Garci" wiretapped conversation between President Macapagal-Arroyo and an election commissioner proved there was cheating in the 2004 elections, particularly in Lanao del Sur, a National Movement for Free Elections officer claimed yesterday.

Hadji Abdullah Dalidig, who headed the Namfrel chapter in Lanao del Sur, told a media forum yesterday that he discovered *dagdag-bawas* (vote-padding and -shaving) operations in at least five towns in the province which gave the President around 20,000 votes.

In a sworn statement distributed to journalists, Dalidig said the conversations in the tapes reflected the "true events" in the northern Mindanao province during the 2004 elections, "that people in government engaged in massive dagdag-bawas in Lanao del Sur."

For example, in the municipality of Poona Baybao, he said the certificates of canvass (COC) showed Ms Arroyo getting 4,700 votes while all other presidential candidates got zero.

"But the truth is that all the other presidential candidates obtained votes, as proved by the official ERs given to Namfrel and which are still in my custody," Dalidig said.

He said he brought the issue to Namfrel chair Jose Concepcion and secretary general Guillermo Luz Jr. in a June 1, 2004 report. He said no one believed him.

Dalidig claimed to have in his possession more than 1,000 out of the 1,569 election returns (ERs) from Lanao del Sur's voting precincts.

Dalidig also claimed that Ms Arroyo's votes were allegedly padded to 5,523 in the municipality of Saguiran, 5,417; in Marantao, 3,952; in Taraka, 3,577; in Wao; and 3,434 in Balindong.

He said it was not true as Luz claimed that out of the 39 towns of Lanao del Sur, the provincial Namfrel only covered and got the election returns of 13 towns. Dalidig claimed to have secured the ERs of 38 towns.

But Luz countered that Dalidig "did not match the ERs with the certificates of canvass (COCs)." The COC is a summary of votes for all candidates cast in each province, city, or absentee voting center. *With a report from Jerome Aning*

Investors relocating from China

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Alcuin Papa

FOREIGN investors have become exhausted by the Philippines' raucous politics that they are glossing over the scandals hounding the Arroyo administration and are even seeking out opportunities for business here, according to Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima.

Purisima, who addressed a Palace briefing yesterday, cited the decision of a number of major multinational corporations to bring back to the Philippines the factories that they had transferred to China a few years ago.

The finance secretary said this was "a very good development because for the longest time people have been worrying about our competitiveness vis-a-vis China."

"We look at this as a badge of honor of the improving fundamentals of the economy. We are now able to project the country as a suitable location for companies operating in China, that we can compare favorably with China with the quality of people and the quality of infrastructure," said Purisima.

He said the Department of Trade and Industry would announce the identities of the returning firms once their relocation plans are finalized.

Purisima said some multinationals are ignoring the "political noise" and moving back to the Philippines because businessmen have come to realize that in China, businessmen must look at the total picture not only at direct cost but at total labor outlay which includes social, expatriate living and power costs.

During President Macapagal-Arroyo's power lunch meeting with Hong Kong business leaders last Monday, Purisima said he was told by one foreign investor that "the Philippines is not the Philippines without these political issues."

Another "eye opener" was a comment by one of the guests: "Tell us of a democracy where the opposition is not trying to unseat the administration. The opposition will always want to be in control. [The Philippines] is just more vibrant in Asia."

"They are now more familiar with the type of democracy the Philippines has. They know it is an active and destructive type of politics from an image standpoint," Purisima said.

Foreign investors have also come to realize how resilient the Philippine economy has been through all the turmoil in its history, the finance secretary said.

Sedition raps vs Abat et al. filed

By Armand N. Nocum

A CASE of inciting to sedition were filed yesterday by two lawyers against retired Maj. Gen. Fortunato Abat, former Budget Secretary Salvador Enriquez and several others in connection with their alleged call to overthrow the Arroyo government.

Lawyers Romeo Igot, president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines Manila Chapter, and Ariel Joseph Arias, president of the University of the East Law Alumni Association, said they filed the case to stop any destabilization effort.

They denied though that the Palace prodded them to file the case.

"Walang kinalaman yung Malacañang dito (Malacañang has nothing to do with this). It's the stand of the lawyers," said Marcial Magsino, who accompanied the two to the Department of Justice.

The three stopped by the office of Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez before they filed the complaint with a prosecutor at the DOJ.

Other respondents in the complaint were retired Commodore Ismael Aparri, a certain John Moldero, retired Gen. Tomas Diaz, Linda Montayre and several unnamed others.

The two lawyers' complaint stemmed from the April 30 press conference called by Abat and other respondents at Club Filipino, where the retired general and former defense secretary "uttered seditious words which dangerously tend to, if not clearly and imminently, disturb the public peace."

They said Abat also called for the abolition of Congress and the establishment of a revolutionary transition government to replace the present administration.

Gambia offers oil field to RP

By Nikko Dizon

IN EXCHANGE for past favors, Gambian President Yahya A.J.J. Jammeh has offered for free one bloc of oil reserve for exploration by the Philippine government, Gambia's foreign minister said yesterday.

"He is offering one bloc out of the five blocs to the government of the Philippines for exploration," Foreign Minister Musa G. Bala Gaye told the INQUIRER in an interview.

Bala Gaye explained that the Philippine government need not go into tender, bid, or compete with other companies.

"He offered it for free and directly to the government of the Philippines for oil exploration," he said.

Gambia discovered its onshore and offshore oil deposits last year.

Bala Gaye said he could not provide technical details about the oil reserve.

However, he said that five blocs have been tendered internationally to interested oil companies. The tender period has been extended up to end-July this year.

Bala Gave said that President Jammeh's offer was in exchange for the Philippines' own act of generosity several years ago when the Gambia attained its independence.

The Philippine government then, Bala Gaye said, gave a peanut variety that eventually became Gambia's main export crop. The peanut was later known as "Philippine pink."

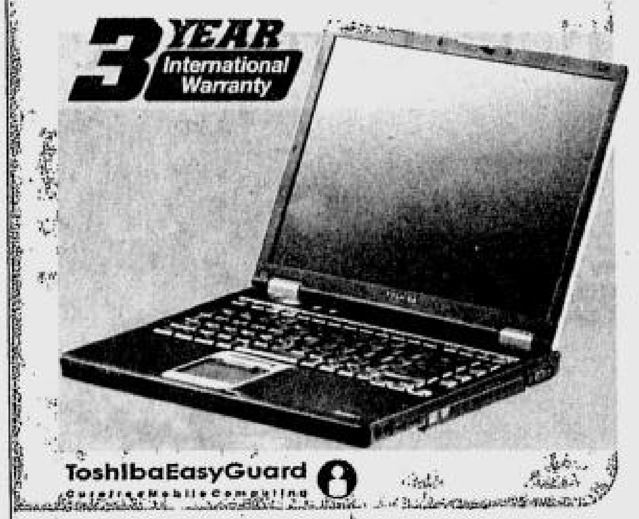
"(It was) from which we run our country at the time when the British said Gambia was not a viable country," Bala Gaye said.

Jammeh and Ed Manalac, president of the Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC), were scheduled to meet last night at a dinner tendered by Tourism Secretary Ace Durano to discuss preparations for the oil exploration.

In an earlier statement, President Arroyo hailed Jammeh's visit as "Godsent" as it came at a time when world oil prices reached an all-time high.

Aside from joint oil exploration, Bala Gaye said Gambia is also interested in Philippine agricultural products.

He added that Jammeh was "very much impressed" with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) that the Gambian government is interested in setting up an agency similar to it. *Nikko Dizon*



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Angara wants Senate to end 'jueteng' probe

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

TWO days before the Senate is to resume its investigation into the jueteng pay-offs scandal, an opposition senator urged the chamber to end the probe.

Sen. Edgardo Angara said the Senate should "stop acting as prosecutor and turn over to the Ombudsman the pieces of evidence it had gathered."

ANGARA

Angara said that unlike the controversial wiretapped conversations involving President Macapagal-Arroyo and an election commissioner that must be resolved by an independent body, the jueteng pay-offs scandal must undergo due process with the proper courts.

Angara echoed the opinion of administration senators Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Richard Gordon who earlier questioned whether the Senate was the proper forum for investigating the criminal liability of officials and private individuals allegedly involved in the operations and protection of the illegal numbers game.

Several senators also support the view of former Senate President Jovito Salonga that the Senate should observe tighter rules, including the holding of executive or closed-door hearings first to validate the testimonies of witnesses.

Following a two-week break, the Senate committees on public order and on games will resume tomorrow the hearings into the proliferation of jueteng and their alleged protectors in government.

Archbishop Oscar Cruz, the anti-jueteng crusader who set off the jueteng probe, said at least two witnesses who would implicate some influential personalities are set to appear tomorrow.

Four witnesses that Cruz had presented in previous hearings implicated the President's husband Jose Miguel "Mike," as well as her son Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo and brother-in-law Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo as alleged beneficiaries of jueteng bribes.

Jueteng bagwoman Sandra Cam, who confessed to collecting jueteng payola for Chief Supt. Restituto Mosqueda, the then police chief of Bicol, said she personally delivered P900,000 to Mikey and Iggy Arroyo at the House of Representatives in December 2004.

But a man who identified himself as a cousin of jueteng operator Charing Magbuhos told the Senate hearings in an affidavit that Magbuhos had denied that Cam had ever collected jueteng money for the Arroyos.

Rudy Magbuhos said in his affidavit that Cam was a "jueteng trustee" of Charing Magbuhos.

Pinay maid's rapist gets 5-yr jail term

HONG KONG—A former goalkeeper on the Hong Kong national soccer team received a five-year jail sentence Wednesday for raping his Filipino maid.

A court convicted Lau Tung-ping of raping the 25-year-old woman at his home, local television network TVB reported. Judge Pang Kin-kee of Hong Kong's High Court handed down a five-year prison term Wednesday, judiciary spokesman Mackenzie Mak said.

Lau was accused of raping his maid six times in May 2002, local media reported earlier.

Government-owned radio RTHK quoted the judge as saying that he cut the sentence short by one year because of Lau's contribution to Hong Kong's soccer team.

AP

Filipino clients join world's top advertisers

THE PHILIPPINES was represented by its first set of clients during the week-long Cannes Lions festival. Pauline Lao of P&G Philippines and Jun Vivar of United Laboratories joined other delegates from 120 major global companies like BMW, Cathay Pacific, Coca-Cola, Diageo, FedEx, Ford, General Motors, HSBC, Kodak, McDonalds, Nestle, P&G, Samsung, Sony and Volkswagen.

The support from these top advertisers is expected to foster stronger client-agency partnerships that would bring more creative ad campaigns from these companies.

P&G Worldwide submitted more than 200 entries to this year's festival, a record number for the giant marketer. Two years ago, P&G made known of their commitment to "make better work," according to P&G's global marketing officer Jim Stengal.

The winners in the Media Lions category were announced last night during a ceremony held at the Palais des Festivals. The Media Lions award honors excellence in media strategy, planning and execution. Of the 1076 entries from 56 countries only 20 Lions were awarded.

Starcom Worldwide Philippines' entry for P&G Philippines, the Rejoice Reviving Shampoo "Song and Dance" campaign, made the shortlist in two categories, Best Use of Mixed Media and Best Use of TV. "Shortlists are winners as well" says Mark Stewart, Media jury president and managing director of OMD, Eastern Region in a press conference yesterday.

The media campaign for Rejoice Reviving Shampoo took the brand to its highest market share ever. It surpassed the market leader in top-of-mind awareness and the company achieved a substantial return on investment.

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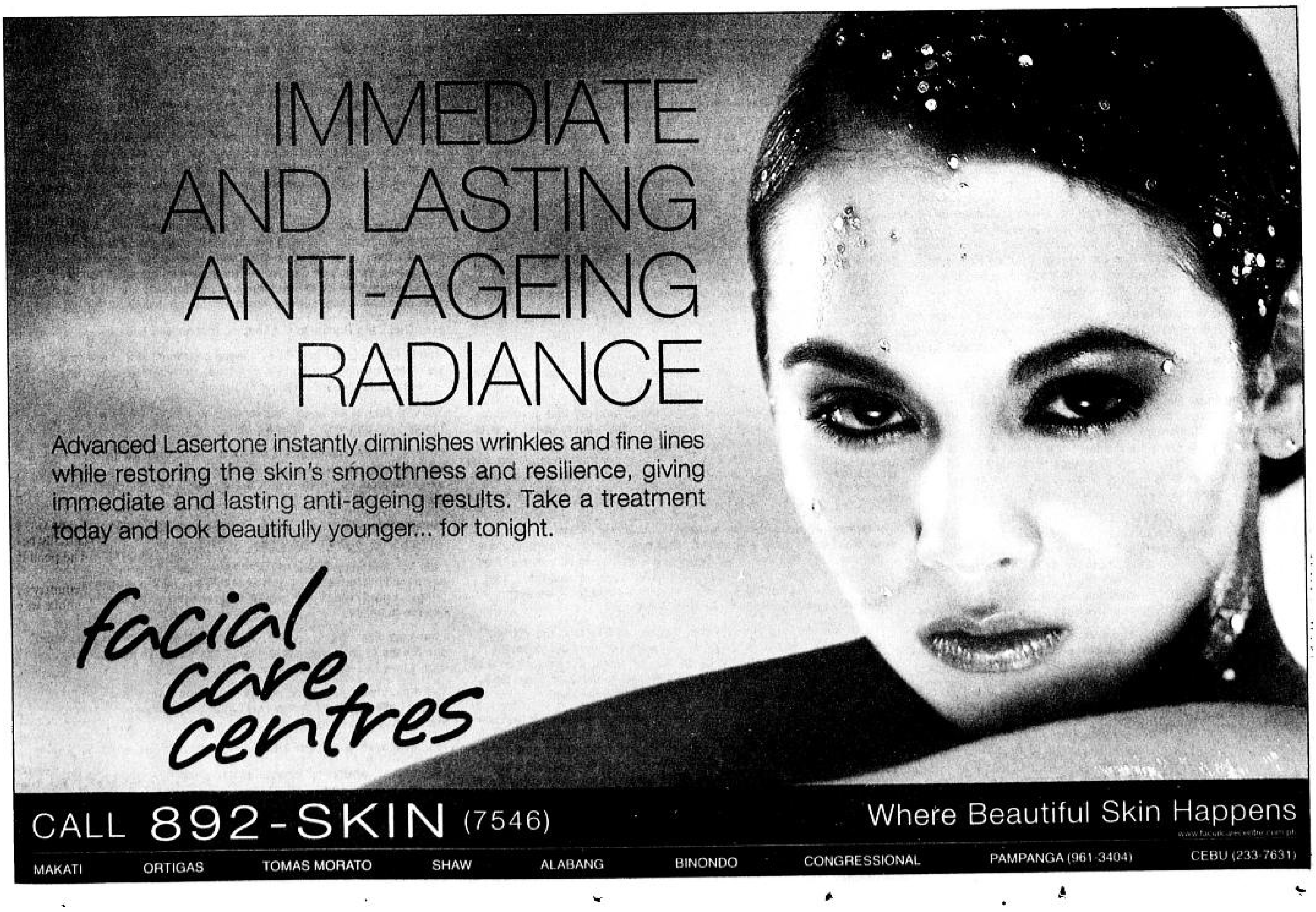

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More Pinoys rate selves as poor–SWS

From page A1

SWS said in its latest survey in the second quarter when oil prices were increasing every week and inflation increased substantially.

Malacañang bemoaned the worsening situation of Filipino families and it was quick to blame the divisive politics for delaying its social programs aimed at alleviating the plight of the poor.

"That's lamentable," said Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita at a press briefing, referring to the lot of Filipino families.

Ermita said this was the reason President Macapagal-Arroyo had continued to focus on her propoor agenda instead of getting distracted by renewed efforts by the opposition to unseat her from power.

Difficult times

In Cebu City, Ms Arroyo urged the people to save the republic by uniting with her in addressing the "difficult times" that lie ahead.

The President said her economic reforms and soaring oil prices were among the "daunting" challenges the country was facing.

Noting that high oil prices had more impact on the poor, the President said she had instructed Trade Secretary Juan Santos to be on charge of putting in place safety nets.

In her keynote speech to the 1st International Conference and Exhibition on Business and Information and Communication Technology, Ms Arroyo said the "oil shock was a matter of national survival."

In the self-rated poverty survey, SWS noted that households in Metro Manila that believed they were poor rose to a record 55 percent.

The polling group said Filipino households acknowledging that they were poor rose across the board—53 percent in the rest of Luzon, 70 percent in the Visayas, and 52 percent in Mindanao.

Monthly income

To escape poverty, the respondents said they needed a monthly income of P10,000 in Metro Manila, P7,000 in the rest of Luzon, P6,000 in the Visayas and P5,000 in Mindanao.

"Such money-value thresholds were already reached as early as five years ago, even though the cost of living rose greatly every year. The failure of the thresholds to increase despite so much inflation is a sign that the poor are actually lowering their real living standards," the SWS said.

SWS said that while the incidence of hunger dropped slightly from 13 percent in March to 12 percent in May, the figure remained significant as it was equivalent to 2 million households in the country.

The incidence of hunger dropped in Mindanao (5.3 percent in May from 14.3 percent in March) which offset the rise in Metro Manila (from 7.7 percent in March to 12 percent in May) and the rest of Luzon (from 13.7 percent in March to 15 percent in May). The incidence of hunger was unchanged at 13.7 percent in the Visayas.

SWS survey also noted an increase in the number of Filipino households experiencing severe hunger or those who went hungry often or always in the last three months. Their number climbed to 2.9 percent in May from 2.5 percent in March.

In her speech, the President said it was important that she had a conversation with business movers and shakers on the "good news" about the economy and the political environment.

Good news

"Because politics affects markets and investment decisions," she said. "For better or worse, actually."

Ms Arroyo stunned her audience when at one point she pounded her hand on the podium several times to elucidate her call for unity in the country.

"We're keeping the nation divided for political purposes," she said. "We cannot make it work anymore. We must put a stop to it."

Reiterating her desire for having "one Philippines," she said she intended to achieve this by "breaking the cycle of division, destructive politics, tax evasion, and a backstabbing political environment which perpetuates the status quo."

"It is no coincidence that my opponents came after me within days of completion of the first phase of our economic reforms and within hours of our credit rating outlook upgrade," she said. "It's an age-old game in the Philippines."

On ICT, Ms Arroyo said 50,000 jobs had been created since 2001. This year alone, 40,000 jobs had been generated.

"Much of this is due to the momentum we built over the last two years ... now we have a total of 132,000 jobs in this sector, half the year is not yet done, very close to our target at 135,000," she added.

She also pointed out that there were 30,000 software developers in the country and this would increase to 100,000 by end of her term in 2010.

FRANK, LIWAY, GERRY: MAY I SAY SOMETHING?

I disagree with all those who say that President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo must explain once and for all if the voice illegally taped is her own voice; that "silence is an acceptance of guilt;" or for whatever other reason others may give.

It is clear to me that all this is part of a destabilization effort to topple the government. I am convinced that there is a concerted effort to bring her government down. There is just no two-ways about it.

The timing is suspect, to start with.

I will not try to argue with the Senate Investigation on the jueteng for indeed the jueteng has been a menace that has led to the impoverishment of our people in the past one hundred years. But the appearance of Atty. Frank Chavez, a known PIATCO lawyer, now a counsel to Sandra Cam, followed by the San Carlos Seminary incident immediately after the Senate went on a recess, is proof enough that the destabilization effort against this administration was all intended to bring it to a boiling point.

Why do I say this?

Is it only mere coincidence that PIATCO's thumbprints were clearly etched in the San Carlos Seminary incident and in the Senate jueteng investigation?

Consider the appearance of the following personalities:

Former BIR Commissioner Liwayway Vinsons-Chato, now lawyering for Atty. Samuel Ong is a known PIATCO lawyer. And so is Frank Chavez.

What made things even more clear to me that PIATCO may have had a hand is the appearance of Col. Gerry Cunanan who in fact is a known appointed General Manager of NAIA 3 by PIATCO who, too, has an ax to grind against this administration for endangering his position – if he has not lost it.

What can one say about these people in light of recent events? There must be more than meets the eye in the current scenario.

I beg these people who are all known to me and have been my friends for an explanation just as the opposition insists for the President to break her silence and explain.

When it comes to La Patria, it behooves us all to safeguard the interest and stability of the nation above all.

It is easy to say that the President must break her silence. But first things first. She was not the one who violated the anti-wiretapping law. The one(s) who committed the crime must first be established. And after that has been established, the authentication of the tape or tapes must follow, not on the say-so of an American company or Australian company for not all "blue seals" are good, perfect, experts, all knowing and accurate.

The statements made by Mr. Kit Tatad that he had sent the tape for "authentication" to a company in New Jersey leaves me cold. And the same goes for the one from Queensland, Australia.

What we need to do is to get hold of the "Mother of all tapes" being bandied around by Atty. Samuel Ong.

So many versions have appeared which have left the public more confused. I agree with President Gloria's statement not to dignify an illegal act; and rightfully so for at this point, we do not know which one of them is the "real McCoy".

I agree with Congressman Salacnib Baterina's statement on "Dong Puno Live" about it's "political implication" should the President prematurely say anything. This dimension must be considered for indeed the issue has reached the point that for the President to admit what has been presented so far is still too premature to do anything about it one way or the other.

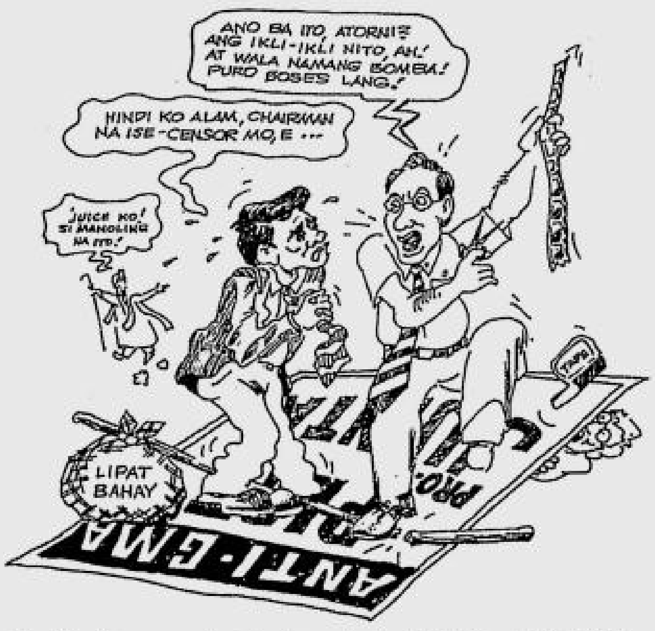
What is most disquieting to me which others may not discern the same way is the PIATCO angle. Just when the world-class airport is about to be opened sometime soon as it was often announced, these incidents suddenly occurred. The arbitration is also expected to take place in Washington D.C. next month.

Can big business in this country disguise itself like a chameleon to put the government down for self-interest and for the interest of a few – including its foreign components? Do foreign interests in this controversial airport have a hand in it? Must we allow ourselves to be dictated upon by foreign vested interests to bring this country down to its knees? The possibility cannot be far-fetched for in this country, money talks.

Does the PIATCO conglomerate have a pact with the opposition to topple the government to get the airport back into their hands? Is this destabilization effort the easier solution to the pending PIATCO case? Who among the opposition senators and congressmen are sympathetic to PIATCO's great fortune?

So many questions remain to be answered for this operation it seems, was meant to be subtle but had suddenly become most unnerving.

As far as I know, the Supreme Court decided on the PIATCO case, not the Executive Department. One need not be a lawyer to see the merits of the Supreme Court's decision. It is said that no less than 15 provisions have been added to the original contract after it had been officially signed which ultimately altered the contract and made it disadvantageous to the government. Like the tapes, this contract was also tampered with.


ANO BA ITO, ATORNI? ANG IKLI-IKLI NITO, AH! AT WALA NAMANG BOMBA! PURO BOSES LANG!
HINDI KO ALAM, CHAIRMAN NA ISE-CENSOR MO, E ...
JUICE KO! SI MANOLING NA ITO!
LIPAT BAHAY
TAPE
PRO-
ANTI-GMA

The alterations were done by the past administration. How many in that administration had benefited from it? Maybe enough to fight to re-possess it? Enough to even topple the present government?

Suddenly, so many are now mouthing "to tell the truth"; that "truth will set us free" and all that garbage as if we do not know that these persons who are mouthing these lines were themselves liars once upon a time.

Who can forget Kit Tatad's announcement of Martial Law on Television? I have not. Bishop Bacani's inappropriate behavior on his female secretary is not yet clear to us to this day. Had Pope John Paul II defrocked him or forgiven him? Is he still a "man of the cloth"?

If I were in the President's shoes, I'd make all this characters explain to the Filipino people. She could tell them: "Sabay tayong magpaliwanag sa taongbayan kung gusto ninyong aminin ko na boses ko nga ang nasa tape." And there are so many others on the same boat, believe it or not.

Director Reynaldo Wycoco said something on "On Line" of Gene Orejana which I also had in mind but was unable to express ahead of him. But I will give him the credit for saying it ahead of me.

For the uninformed, I wish they would take note of Natalie Cole's video recording with her already dead father, Nat King Cole. And Muhammad Ali's video showing him in a boxing bout with Rocky Marciano who'd been long dead. Modern technology was able to blend the dead and the living in such a way as if they did it yesterday. Can anyone say that there's splicing on those tapes by examining the final and finished product? Can you detect, audio-visually, that Natalie and her father were not singing together or that Ali was not fighting Rocky Marciano? Even Disney films can produce marvelous computer-generated images that look so real. To make an audiotape with Garci's voice and whoever you wish to pair him with is easier to do. Even sexual acts can be made between two strangers without them knowing what will appear in the edited copy.

In like manner, the voices in the "Mother of all tapes" of Atty. Ong can also easily be done.

Again, if I were the President, will I bother to admit the voice clips now? Why spoil the fun? Seldom does one get the distinct honor of having the most popular ringtone. It's cute and it's lots of fun to hear it. It gives me a good laugh whenever I hear it. It does not offend at all. Remember, laughter is the best medicine. We must learn to laugh more.

The oppositionists are always frowning.

It is my sincere wish to see our people laugh more instead of showing anger and hatred.

There was one incident in the San Carlos Seminary that gave me a good laugh. And I hope you'd laugh with me. I am referring to what Atty. Luis Sison, one of Atty. Samuel Ong's lawyers, said on ANC. Louie is a friend, but was it right for him to say that Arlene Doble was "the first wife of T/Sgt. Vidal Doble"? There was malice in it because of the imputation that Vidal Doble had other "wives" aside from Arlene?

Louie, allow me to tell you that the "first wife" is always the wife unless the marriage is annulled. The second, third or fourth are not "wives". The fact that T/Sgt. Vidal Doble wanted to be with his "first" wife and their two children proved that Arlene is his real wife. If he has others, it is Louie's job to present them to us (as if we even care) just as he owes us one if Trici is his "first".

There were no less than five presidential candidates in the 2004 elections. As I know it, the other four were the ones out to defeat candidate Arroyo at all cost, by hook or by crook. Pinagtulungan nila ang isang babaeng candidate. Kaya ko siya kinampihan aside from the fact that she was the most prepared to take the helm.

To blame candidate Arroyo of cheating the other four men to win is a bit beyond my imagination. Could it be the other way around? Or the four male candidates also ended up slugging each other? Baka may ibang lalaking candidate na dinaya din si FPJ. Who knows? They were all fighting to win and we can surmise that they all tried to outdo each other.

A close fight normally brings contempt. The votes in the elections of 2004 with no less than five presidential candidates were fragmented which favored the incumbent. All the surveys showed President Gloria was leading by more than a million votes, including that of SWS of FPJ's cousin Mahar Mangahas. It is but natural for President Gloria to expect that result which eventually happened.

The fight between Biazon and Barbers was so close at only 10,000 votes from each other. In the last presidential elections in Taiwan last year, the incumbent president won by only 30 votes. So, it also happens in other places, including in Florida in 2000 that caused a more bitter fight between the two most powerful presidential candidates in the world. But both honored and respected the decision of their highest court.

Napag-uusapan na, noon pa, na si "Garci" (kung siya man 'yon) ay naglalaro sa lahat at namamangka sa dalawang ilog, ika nga. As what my former classmate Christian Monsod said on TV, "Garci" was known for that.

Kung lumabas man sa darating na araw na tiyak na boses ni "Garci", ako man ang Presidente. I'd check on him too at baka ako na ang niyayari niya. Kinabahan na rin siguro si Presidente Gloria.

President Nixon's Watergate is completely the opposite of what Atty. Samuel Ong would want us to believe. It's Ong who probably took the place of Nixon, not President Gloria.

In Nixon's case, it was he who was found guilty of violating the anti-wiretapping law. Si President Nixon ang nagpa-wiretap. Siya ang nag-utos at siya ang naalis sa puwesto.

Masyadong magulo ang kalagayan natin ngayon. The so-called "battle of perception" regarding a certain tape or tapes is on the grind. The strategy of the opposition is to "let the people judge". But how can the people judge intelligently when the idea of the opposition is to deceive them?

The opposition wants us to believe that the supporters of President Gloria cheated for her in the last elections as if the leaders and supporters of the other candidates did not resort to the same practice.

We have to accept certain hard realities – that cheating and vote-buying do occur in Philippine elections. As to their magnitude, I do not exactly know. But otherwise, many of our senators and congressman won't be sitting in the Senate and Congress today. It is not the candidates themselves who cheat but their leaders, followers and handlers.

I would like to thank Susan, an old and dear friend since our younger days for not allowing herself to be used. In these times of great difficulties and confusion, she could have been thrown to the wolves together with all of us. Knowing Ronnie, he would not have desired it either. And why get involved with goons salivating for blood?

I chaperoned Susan when she was still single. Ronnie was my compadre and his mother, Bessy, my comadre.

Susan, I thank you and Ronnie for coming to my private chapel in my residence the day Ronnie declared his candidacy in Manila Hotel and for coming again on May 9, the day before election day. But forgive me for not being able to personally attend to both of you anymore for it was not proper for me to do so. Imagine if had we been seen together just hours before the polls opened. What would people say? That I turned my back on candidate Gloria at the last minute? It could have sent the wrong signal and I am not one to do that.

I want everybody to know that I will forever be grateful to Ronnie and Susan for not resenting the fact that I supported President Gloria. Despite and in spite of knowing that I was for President Gloria and VP Noli de Castro, our friendship continued. Ronnie, the candidate, never showed hurt feelings towards me. We related with each other as if nothing was happening between us.

May God keep Ronnie in His keeping forever and ever.

And to Frank, Liway and Gerry, please bear in mind that although we've been friends for quite a long time, there comes a time when love of country must come first above all.

That "Mother of all tapes" took long in the making. Why was it brought out only now – after a year?

I cannot in conscience easily fall for it. I know Nat King Cole's tape with his daughter, Natalie, done long after his death took less than a month to produce. And so with Muhammad Ali's tape with Rocky Marciano.

I handled the film industry for six long years as MTRCB Chairman. Thus, I know enough about the tricks they use.

I am not defending President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. What I am saying is in defense of my own sensibilities and the way I see things. I always look at things as they are, not as what others would like me to believe.

I have my own mind to protect. And I speak out what I feel. No one can tell me to jump in the lake when I don't feel like doing it. Never. That's how I've kept my sanity intact.

To Frank, Liway and Gerry, please just tell us what's going on for I cannot believe that all this merely happened by chance. I am old enough to be taken for a ride.

And if we have to end our friendship because of this, so be it.

My stand will always be for country and people. Anyone who tries to stand in between can forget me.

Prefiero vivir solo que mal acompañado.

MANUEL L. MORATO

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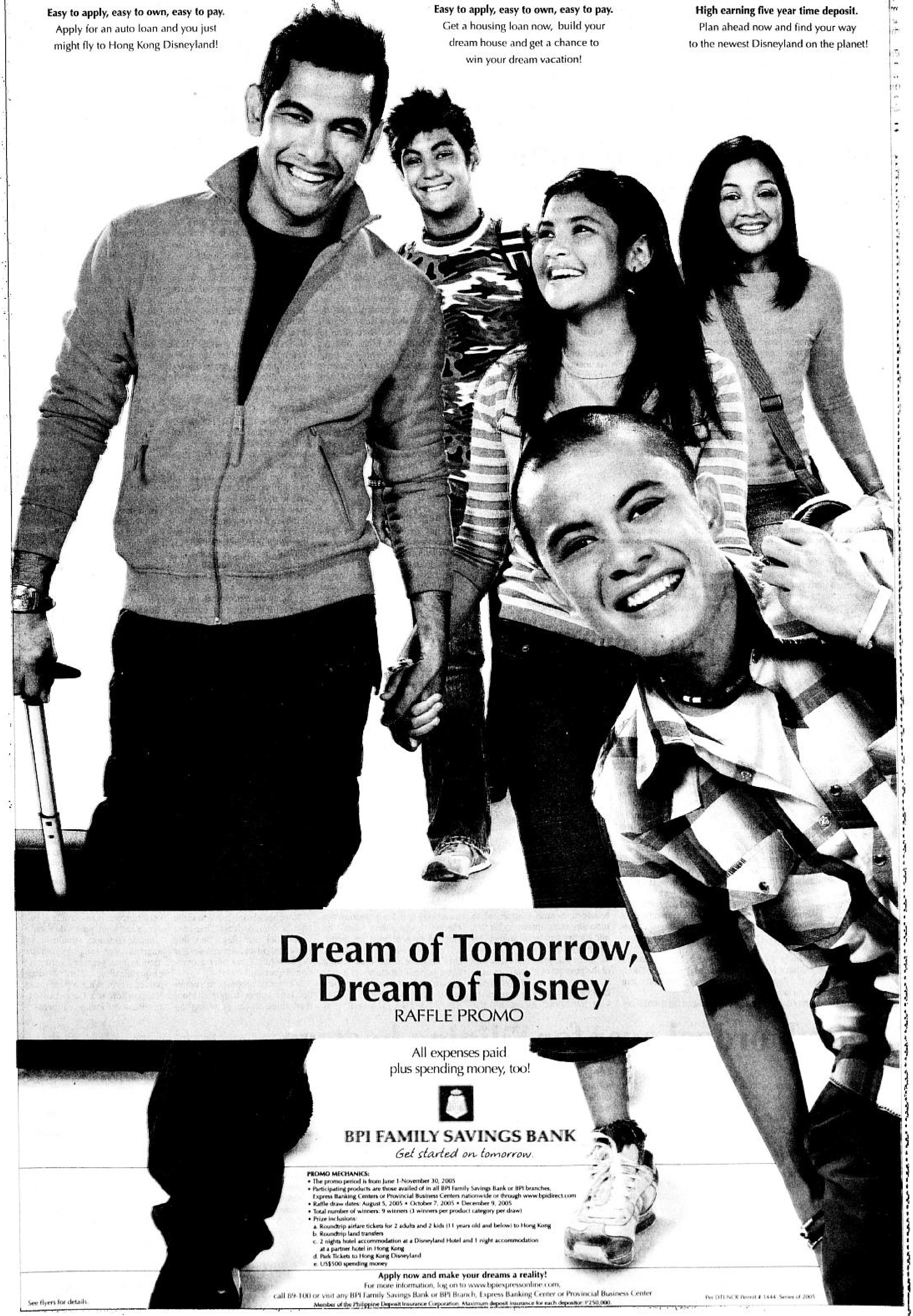

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Per DTI-NCR Permit # 1444 Series of 2005

VIPs, plain folk mourn

From page A1

archdiocese.

Bataan Bishop Socrates Villagas, a former auxiliary bishop of Manila and a protégé of Sin's, greeted the two top officials.

Before leaving, the black-clad President again fell in line to view Sin's remains.

Neither she nor De Castro signed the condolence book or issued a statement.

Earlier, former President Fidel Ramos arrived to express his family's condolences.

Ramos said in an ambush interview that Sin was "irreplaceable" and a "unique Filipino."

Applause

"May his legacy remain with us Filipinos for all time," Ramos said.

At the 7 p.m. Mass on Tuesday, the main celebrant, Bishop Dinualdo Gutierrez of Marbel in Cotabato, exhorted the assembly to give thanks for Sin's three-decade service as Manila archbishop.

The assembly responded with applause that lasted for about a minute.

It was after the Mass that people from all walks of life, including street vendors, socialites, nuns, priests and seminarians, even tourists, began arriving.

Among the mourners was Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption legal counsel Pete Principe, known among anti-crime crusaders as "Attorney Bitay" for securing death sentences for a number of people charged with heinous crimes.

Asked about his prodeath penalty stand vis-à-vis Sin and the Catholic Church's prolife advocacy, Principe said: "I came to express our gratitude to him and to honor his great legacy as the major instrument of the restoration of democracy in the country."

Principe also said he and other residents of Bulacan were among those who heeded Sin's radio message in February 1986 for the faithful to support what came to be known as Edsa I.

Princely burial

Sin is to be buried on Tuesday at the Manila Cathedral crypt, where other archbishops, including his immediate predecessor, Rufino Cardinal Santos, are interred.

A horse-drawn carriage bearing his dark mahogany casket will lead a procession around the cathedral, highlighting a ceremony fit for a prince of the Church, complete with full state and military honors including a 21-gun salute.

Fr. Rufino Sescon, Sin's private secretary for seven years, said the President would lead the state honors at the cathedral steps.

Bishop Villegas is expected to deliver the homily.

Sin's successor, Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales, Papal Nuncio Antonio Franco, Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, and Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla, president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, will each deliver a message.

"We will make the burial orderly," Sescon said, adding that the cardinal expressed this wish after viewing on TV the interment of Pope John Paul II in April.

To ensure an orderly ceremony, organizers will allow only 50 people in the crypt, Sescon said.

Symbols

According to Sescon, Sin personally chose his burial place—the spot beside that of Manila Archbishop Gabriel Reyes.

The cardinal will be buried with all the important symbols of his priestly life.

His body is garbed in a red cassock and sash—the basic uniform of cardinals—along with an alb, pectoral cross and stole, as well as a gold chasuble given to him by Pope John Paul II and a gold-trimmed miter, another gift from Rome.

A staff bearing his "serviam" logo, the first he received when he was ordained bishop in Jaro, Iloilo, is in the casket. But Sescon said it would likely be transferred to a museum before the burial.

"This is his original staff," Sescon said. "He preferred this one even if he received so many other staffs."

Sescon said organizers were considering putting a "time capsule" summarizing Sin's life inside the casket.

The last important items that Sin will bring to the afterlife are a rosary, a symbol of his intense Marian devotion, and his bishop's ring. *With an AP report*

The life and times of Jaime Cardinal Sin

From page A1

told how Cardinal Sin described the mother's milk as "poisonous."

"That's what our *yaya* told us," he said....

"There was a set of twins, named Pastora and Disposoria, who also died as babies.

"As you can see," says Cardinal Sin, taking up the tragedy of the mother's milk, "we were all brought up under Carnation milk ... That is a promotion!"

"He follows this sally with a laugh, childishly clamping one hand on his mouth, a characteristic way of his."

Ugly but loved

Florendo wrote of a misty-eyed Sin recalling how he was "really loved" by his mother among her nine living children.

"Then twinkling: 'Because I was the ugliest among them. I was asthmatic then, too. Is it not true there is one very ugly, very sickly child and he gets all the attention of the mother? That was me.'"

The young Jaime was gradually drawn to the priesthood. He served as altar boy to the *cura parroco* (parish priest), and, before he was 12, was taken to the minor seminary in Jaro, Iloilo.

Florendo wrote: "When war came all the seminarians were sent home because of the bombing all around. Going up the steps of their house, he was met by his mother, who gasped: 'What are you doing here?'...

"Go to Manila," she ordered, where the seminaries are open. When a priest prevailed, cautioning it wasn't safe in Manila either, the unrelenting matriarch decided Jim should stay in a convent in Kalibo, 10 km from New Washington.

Editor

"So for three years and nine months he stayed with Fr. Salvador Esmero (now a monsignor in Pototan, Iloilo). 'Mother wanted me to learn Latin from him so that when the war was over [he] could recommend me to a higher level,' [Sin says]. 'But the war kept us jumping from one barrio to another so I wasn't able to study. And so I became his cook, at the same time sacristan—and editor of a weekly magazine.'

"It was a mimeographed affair called The Sunday Visitor (he was to also edit the seminary magazine).

"He pulled together all the young men in the locality, and 'we wrote stories about weddings,' he roars with laughter, 'because we could not get news about Japanese landings. But our editorials were scriptural messages—beautiful, isn't it?'"

But the young man had asthma, and was always laid low by it.

Quoting Sin, Florendo wrote: "I wrote a letter to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal and I said, 'If I am sick and become a priest I will be a burden to society, to the diocese. If I am not cured I would prefer to leave the seminary. I give you a deadline.'

"The Virgin beat him to the deadline. 'I got cured, I don't know how. I forgot all about my sickness. The asthma has not returned [since then].'"

Politics

As a cardinal facing the "many issues that confront him and the Church, [Sin] is at once decisive and controlled, pertinacious and prudent. It would be all wrong to mark him as a moderate right or a liberal left: His politics is no more or no less than that of a man of God."

"The Holy Father said we should not interfere in [politics]," Sin told Florendo. "I would put it this way: There is a morality in politics as there is a morality in boxing...

"For example, if I denounce those who committed anomalies during the election, am I engaged in politics or am I not doing my duty as priest by correcting my people? I'm a priest and I'm supposed to perform my ministerial duties. But then I should not be confined to the sacristy..."

Baptism

Jose Ma. Sison, founding chair of the Communist Party of the Philippines and now chief political consultant of the National Democratic Front, said he never met Sin personally but knew the cardinal as "a good priest and moral leader through close friends and relatives."

In a "personal homage" to Sin sent to the INQUIRER, the Netherlands-based Sison wrote:

"He was close to my uncle, the late Archbishop of Nueva Segovia Juan Sison. They were often together on trips to Rome. After my arrest in 1977, Archbishop Sison sent my mother to Cardinal Sin to request him to intercede with [Ferdinand] Marcos to stop the tortures being applied on me.

"When my mother asked him to officiate at the silver wedding anniversary of my brother Dr. Ramon C. Sison and his wife Rosario in 1984, Cardinal Sin [said] he would like to baptize my son Jasm, who was born in the Army prison hospital in Fort Bonifacio in 1981.

Pride

"The Free Jose Ma. Sison Committee decided to make the baptism a meaningful event of the united front. Friends of mine like [the late] Sen. Lorenzo M. Tañada, my lawyers Juan T. David and [now Sen.] Joker Arroyo and other prominent opponents of the fascist regime stood as godfathers of my son."

Former President Corazon Aquino once told the INQUIRER that being considered Sin's best friend made her late husband, Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., feel like "the proudest Filipino."

When Ninoy was severely weakened by his hunger strike in April 1975 to protest the Marcos regime's continued detention of political prisoners, the Aquino family requested Sin to tell Ninoy to end his strike.

Sin visited Ninoy in his prison cell but the latter refused to end the hunger strike. But he allowed Sin to administer the sacrament of the sick on him.

Prayer

On June 22, 2003, the already sickly cardinal called on the faithful nationwide to support and pray for priests, particularly those in distress.

It was during this period that the Philippine Catholic Church was in the news because ranking members of the clergy were being implicated in sex scandals.

In a statement, Sin said: "I enjoin the priests, religious and lay faithful of the Archdiocese of Manila to observe June 22-29 as a week of prayer for the sanctification of priests...

"To my beloved priests, let this period [of crisis] be a moment of purification and conversion. Let this be an opportunity to examine ourselves if we are truly configured to the image of the Good Shepherd...

"If we are united in prayers, we will be able to unite our sufferings with the Lord. And if we unite our suffering with Jesus, we will experience God's saving strength and consolation. Like the Sacred Heart of Jesus, we may be wounded and trampled, but we will emerge effective living agents of God's compassionate love."

Humility

Fr. Joey Faller, spiritual director of the Grotto of Healing and Purification of the Kamay ni Hesus Healing Miracle in Lucban, Quezon, has a vivid memory of his brief meeting with Sin:

"Four months ago, I was in Villa San Miguel, the official residence of the cardinal, attending a spiritual recollection. Someone brought me to his room, apparently upon his invitation. The cardinal asked me to pray for him.

"That short meeting was a very humbling experience for me. I couldn't help myself—I cried after I prayed over him. Cardinal Sin is the epitome of humility."

With reports from Delfin Mallari Jr. and Romulo Ponte, Southern Luzon Bureau

Solons can't pin down Bunye on 'Hello Garci' tape

From page A1

margin in last year's election.

"I cannot be sure," Bunye said to repeated questions. He also fended off insinuations that Ms Arroyo was speaking with Garcillano in the tape. Garcillano has denied he is involved in the tapped conversation.

Four hours into the hearing, a lawmaker demanded that the controversial tape be played, sparking a shouting match that ended after the presiding chair called for a break. Administration lawmakers have stressed that since the authenticity of the wiretap had not been established it can only be played privately, behind media glare.

Malacañang has insisted that the recording has been doctored and that it is part of an opposition plot to unseat Ms Arroyo.

The decision to take custody of copies of the controversial recording came after Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin, chair of the House committee on suffrage, and Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla, chair of the House committee on public information, announced that members of Congress could submit any "evidence" relevant to the ongoing inquiry pending a ruling on the admissibility of such an evidence.

'We owe it to the people'

Cebu Rep. Clavel Martinez, a member of the administration bloc in Congress, then stunned her colleagues in the majority bloc when she declared that the people of Cebu had the right to know whether Ms Arroyo indeed won by more than one million votes in her province.

"I have a copy of the CD. I read the transcripts. We owe it to the people of Cebu and the country at large (to prove the authenticity of the tape)," she said, stressing that she campaigned for Ms Arroyo last year.

"Looking back, I wondered if I still did the right thing. Those seeking the truth [should] join me," said Martinez.

The administration could attempt to stop the playing of the tape, but she said she wanted to submit it to the panel nevertheless.

Alan Paguia, a former counsel for deposed President Joseph Estrada, had showed up earlier during the hearing and handed CDs containing a copy of the wiretap to House Minority Leader Francis Escudero. But because he was not invited to the hearing, he was warned he could be cited for contempt and told to retrieve his tape. Paguia had previously announced that he had the original bugging.

The committee later also agreed to accept the Paguia tape.

Self-preservation

Earlier yesterday, the panel suffered a setback when one of the key witnesses, Samuel Ong, failed to show up, citing threats to his life, said a letter sent by his lawyer, Homobono Adaza.

"Since self-preservation is one of the greatest of human drives, it is understandable why Attorney Ong cannot favorably respond to your invitation," Adaza told the House investigators.

A former deputy chief of the National Bureau of Investigation, Ong on June 10 announced he also had the original wiretap, which he said had been given to him by elements of the military intelligence service (Isafp). However, Ong has gone into hiding for fear he would be killed for his disclosure.

Also yesterday, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago pressed her demand for the House to stop immediately its "chaotic" investigation. She warned that the House could be committing grave abuse of discretion if it admitted the tapes of the wiretap as evidence.

"If the representatives continue what they did last Tuesday, the House investigation can be stopped by a petition for certiorari or prohibition, on the ground that since the House is exercising quasi-judicial functions, it is acting with grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack of jurisdiction," Santiago, a former trial court judge and law professor at the University of the Philippines, said in a statement.

Authentication needed

"The House should take two steps before the representatives continue their interpellations. First, they should look for a court order authorizing the wiretap; if none can be produced, then the investigation cannot even start ... Second, in the dim possibility that a court order can be produced, then the person who conducted the wiretap, perhaps TSgt. Vidal Doble, should first authenticate it," Santiago said.

Ong has said that Doble, a military intelligence agent, was the source of his recording.

Martinez's manifestation came after a heated debate between Lanao del Sur Rep. Benasing Macarambon and Agusan del Sur Rep. Rodolfo Plaza over a question of quorum.

Martinez's proposal to submit her tape copies triggered more than three hours of wrangling over procedures, rules and constitutional provisions, but in the end the chairpersons of the five committees decided to "take custody" of the tapes, compact discs and transcripts of the purported conversation between President Arroyo and a poll official for safekeeping.

Locsin and Remulla parried accusations hurled by administration Representatives Prospero Pichay, Junie Cua, Noynoy Aquino, Rodolfo Antonino, Luis Villafuerte, Salacnib Baterina that formally taking cognizance of the audio tape was violative of the Anti-Wiretapping Act and the Constitution.

The lawmakers had repeatedly insisted that any wiretapped conversation was inadmissible as evidence and mere possession was a criminal offense, penalized by imprisonment ranging from six months to six years and perpetual disqualification from holding public office. With reports from Norman Bordadora, Juliet Labog-Javellana and Philip C. Tubeza

7-month ordeal over for Filipino hostage

From page A1

crisis team led by Foreign Undersecretary Rafael Seguis, she said.

Interviewed later by GMA television, Tarongoy said he was flying back home and was expected in Manila tonight. Asked how he was treated, he replied, "It was difficult."

"I just want to thank the President ... She did not stop helping me," Tarongoy said.

Seguis said that Tarongoy had been blindfolded most of the time and appeared disoriented.

A previously unknown armed group which identified itself as Jaysh al-Mujahedeen (the army of holy warriors) claimed it freed Tarongoy after the Philippine government agreed to fulfill its demands, Al-Jazeera television reported.

The Doha-based channel broadcast a videotape showing the hostage held by two armed men, reading what it claimed to be a statement by the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs saying it had banned its nationals from traveling to Iraq and adopted a new law to punish those who disobeyed the order.

Seguis said he enlisted the help of friendly governments—Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Republic, Egypt and Jordan—and Islamic clerics in securing the accountant's freedom. "We also prayed for divine intervention," he said.

As early as after lunch yesterday, the President hinted to a gathering of information and communication technology leaders in Cebu that she was going to have "good news" later in the day. It came shortly after 5 p.m. when Ms Arroyo emerged after attending Mass at the Cebu convent.

The President said she talked to Tarongoy's wife, Ivy, by phone while at the convent and that the latter was profuse with thanks and happiness upon learning of her husband's safe release.

"And this day happens to be the third wedding anniversary of the couple," Ms Arroyo disclosed. "Truly, God knows when is the right time."

A job well done

The Chief Executive thanked Seguis and his crisis team for a job well done.

She noted that Seguis had been in Iraq since after Tarongoy's abduction.

"The team was able to accomplish their duty to bring Tarongoy home even if there were threats on their lives there," President Arroyo said. She thanked God for Tarongoy's safe release.

"*Salamat, salamat sa Panginoon*," President Arroyo said. "*Mabuhay ang OFW* (Overseas Filipino Worker)."

Withdrawal of workers

Tarongoy's release comes amid calls by the government for the estimated 6,000 Filipino workers still in Iraq to return home.

The Philippines early last year pulled out its token military contingent serving with US-led coalition forces after a Filipino truck driver was kidnapped. The pull-out caused a souring of ties between the Philippines and key ally the United States, but the truck driver was later freed.

Previous unverified reports said Tarongoy's abductors had asked for a certain amount of ransom for his freedom.

Seguis said, however, no ransom was paid.

The militants initially threatened to behead the Filipino in March, but were apparently moved after appeals were made by the foreign department on Arabic satellite television to spare his life.

Welcome home

In Davao City, the Tarongoy family was finally able to hang the streamer they prepared as early as December when news broke out that Robert was to be released.

The 1 x 3-meter streamer, which read: "Thank you Lord, welcome home Bobby," was put up at the entrance of the Tarongoy house inside the San Pedro Memorial compound here.

The atmosphere inside the house, where ecstatic relatives and friends started to arrive, was joyful as the release also coincided with Tarongoy's wedding anniversary.

Lilibeth, Tarongoy's sister, said they received the news at 3:30 p.m. from Labor Undersecretary Susan Ople.

"My brother Eugene was the one who received the call. We were overjoyed," she said.

Lilibeth said their sleepless nights were finally over with the release of her brother.

Tarongoy's parents, Tomas and Isabelita, immediately flew to Manila yesterday along with his wife, Ivy.

"We can't wait to see him. We would hug him tight. We really missed him," Lilibeth said.

Tarongoy, the second eldest of six siblings, went to Iraq on July 20.

His reason for going to the troubled country was to help his parents fund the schooling of his other siblings. *With a report from Jerome Aning, Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau and AFP*

Bro. Eddie asks GMA to quit, if she's the one on tape

From page A1

decisions to turn the economy around ... Maybe that's why the Lord put me here at this time," she told Time magazine early this month.

While denying speculations that he had rushed home to join groups seeking Ms Arroyo's resignation, Villanueva's Bangon would hold a massive prayer rally on July 1.

"We will hold the appeal-to-heaven prayer rally, although we are having a hard time finding a venue. It seems once they hear the word "rally," they immediately deny us [the venue to hold one]," said Villanueva, who heads an organization of roughly seven million members nationwide.

Two paths

He offered two paths that the country may take to solve the "crisis of a failed leadership."

"There are two choices in my opinion: one is having a righteous and principled revolutionary government that would have the courage to destroy the apparatus of corruption in the government," Villanueva said.

"Or, based on our current system, the President and Vice President, if they realize they can't continue governing the nation, may have the courage and decision to step down, and lead the country to a special election," he said.

Villanueva said an independent election commission must be formed, led by people of integrity, not by "operators and manipulators" of election results.

Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. yesterday branded as "far-fetched" and "unwise" calls that a snap presidential election be held amid the "Jueteng-gate II" and "Gloria-gate" controversies plaguing the country.

No basis

Abalos told reporters that there was no basis for opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr.'s call for the President to step down and order snap elections.

"There is no such thing [as a snap presidential elections]. And it is illegal, even the President cannot order it," Abalos said.

He said the Constitution was strict on the tenure of the highest officials of the land.

Expounding on his first point, Villanueva said "a military junta was out of the question," as it would be a breach of the Constitution. But he called on the Armed Forces of the Philippines to "serve the public, not the abusive government."

In anticipation of huge antigovernment protests, the Philippine National Police yesterday went on full alert nationwide.

"The PNP was placed on full alert effective today. We are prepared for these protests," PNP spokesperson Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil told reporters in Camp Crame.

Militant groups and supporters of former President Joseph Estrada and the late presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. are set to march on Liwasang Bonifacio in Manila on Friday to demand Ms Arroyo's resignation.

On Saturday, a group led by retired Army chief Fortunato Abat, the Coalition for National Solidarity, planned to march on Malacañang to likewise press for Ms Arroyo's resignation.

Full alert

The demonstrations were triggered by a wiretapped conversation that allegedly proved that the President conspired with former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano to cheat in the May 2004 presidential polls.

The PNP national headquarters, Camp Crame, had been on full alert status since Monday.

Two days ahead of the June 24 protest rally by opposition groups, police officials in Central Luzon began sending 300 antiriot policemen to Metro Manila on Wednesday.

Senior Supt. Perfecto Palad, regional operations chief, said the troops would augment forces in civil disturbance management work.

At the North Luzon Expressway, a major gateway to Metro Manila, policemen were also expected to set up checkpoints as a precautionary measure against violence. *With reports from Jerome Aning and Dona Pazzibugan in Manila and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Nene wants Edsa show to go on, but lead actor is gone

From page A1

yesterday said another Edsa uprising was still possible even with the death of Jaime Cardinal Sin.

"Without Cardinal Sin, people power is difficult but not impossible. There are additional obstacles like a corrupted Armed Forces, PNP (Philippine National Police) and business leaders who wallow in the largesse of corrupt administration," Pimentel said in a text message to the INQUIRER.

But Fr. Rufino Sescon, Sin's private secretary, disclosed that toward the end of his life, the influential Church leader and retired Manila archbishop admitted to him that he was fed up with too much politicking in the country.

"Like every Filipino, he felt how we have suffered a lot because of all these politicking, all these quarrels and these political maneuverings of leaders of both sides," Sescon said of one of his final conversations with Sin, who played a key role in the two historic uprisings.

He said Sin was hoping for an early resolution to the crisis triggered by the controversy over an alleged wiretapped conversation purportedly showing that President Macapagal-Arroyo and Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano had rigged the 2004 presidential election.

"He said, 'I hope this would end soon,'" Sescon quoted Sin as saying.

In an interview on the eve of his brother's death, Dr. Ramon Sin said the prelate was still waiting for more information and clearer evidence on the taped conversations.

"Next to his prayer books, the newspapers were a must," the doctor recalled. "We had all newspapers available. He read them every day. We watched the news."

Sescon said Sin once asked him if Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales and Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla, president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, had already made statements.

"We ended with that," he said. "I told him they hadn't made any statement so far. He didn't say anything anymore."

Sescon said the cardinal showed so much concern about the military siege of the San Carlos Seminary in Makati where whistle-blower Samuel Ong had sought refuge. Ong claimed he had the "mother of all tapes" on the Arroyo-Garcillano conversations.

"He was asking for information and I would update him three to four times a day," Sescon recalled, adding that in the last letter of Sin, the cardinal told the San Carlos priests and seminarians that he was praying for them.

Until his death, however, Sin made no statement on the controversy. Ong has also left the seminary.

Still optimistic

Even so, Sin's death has not discouraged Pimentel who earlier called on Ms Arroyo to resign in the wake of the tape controversy.

"I'm optimistic, good will prevail over evil," said the senator whose preference was for Ms Arroyo to step down rather than be toppled in another people power.

Like Pimentel, civil society leader Linda Montayre said that people power might no longer be possible against the Arroyo administration because its military and police are poised to disperse mass actions to nip in the bud any Edsa uprising.

"Our analysis of Edsa One and Edsa Dos shows that the leaders then, (Ferdinand) Marcos and (Joseph) Estrada, gave in. They didn't use violence to disperse the crowds and they left," Montayre said.

The militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, however, said that while the country had lost a rallying point for people power with the cardinal's demise, there are other Church leaders who have Sin's communication skills.

"I don't think there'd be a vacuum. Bishops today remain socially involved. The possibility of people power did not die with Sin," said Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes.

"(People power remains a possibility) so long as the mass movement continues," he added. *Christian V. Esguerra and Norman Bordadora*

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

US troops start leaving Iraq in 2006

BAGHDAD—US troops may start withdrawing from Iraq in March, a US general said Tuesday, as the new US ambassador to the war-torn country pledged to help Iraqis crush a ruthless insurgency.

As many as four or five brigades (up to 20,000 people) could leave if the country's ethnic groups agree on a constitution and elect a government that has broad support, Lt. Gen. John Vines said in Washington via video link from Iraq.

"I suspect we will probably draw down capability after the election, because Iraqi security forces are more capable," Vines said; He referred to planned elections at the end of this year that would follow hoped-for approval of a new constitution in October.

The number-two US commander in Iraq forecast that the insurgency would dwindle rapidly if the political process succeeded, but said any drawdown would depend on conditions on the ground.

In Britain, Foreign Secretary Jack Straw told lawmakers the US-led coalition did not have an "open-ended" commitment to staying in the country.

He added that "violence is at an unacceptable level, higher than was anticipated." Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari said Baghdad would not be surprised and would understand if the United States began to start withdrawing troops next year.

"I would not be surprised ... If there would be some withdrawal, let's say early 2006, I think it would be understandable," he said in Brussels.

"The more our forces assume responsibility, the less role the multinational force will have in Iraq," he said.

In Baghdad, the new US ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad vowed to work with Iraqis to crush the tenacious insurgents.

"I will work with Iraqis to break the back of the insurgency," Khalilzad said after presenting his credentials to President Jalal Talabani in the heavily fortified Green Zone where most American and Iraqi officials live.

"Foreign terrorists and hardline Baathists want Iraq to be in a civil war," he told reporters, referring to members of former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein's Baath party.

Insurgents believed to be led by Sunni Arabs and Jordanian-born extremist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi kill dozens of Iraqis almost daily, targeting members of the country's security forces in particular.

Zebari, in Brussels on the eve of an international conference on rebuilding Iraq, warned NATO that the "consequences of failure" could resonate beyond the country's borders.

"That's why the stakes are high. That's why we need the contributions and help of many countries," Zebari told NATO ambassadors.

The Islamic Development Bank said it will make a $500-million loan, Kuwait offered a grant of 60 million dollars and the Slovakian government decided to write off Iraq's $1.12-million (900 thousand euros) debt.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said the United States urged Iraq's neighbours to give more debt relief to the country but held out little hope of any breakthrough at the conference.

She said the meeting of leaders from more than 80 countries and organizations was an opportunity to build "a new international partnership for Iraq" as it emerges from the US occupation.

Meanwhile, US and Iraqi forces wound up the five-day Operation Spear in and around the western city of Karabilah, reporting a final toll of 47 insurgents killed and one detained, a military statement said.

The operation was one of two launched last week in lawless Al-Anbar province, which covers most of western Iraq, and took the lives of five US troops. *AFP*

Sharon, Abbas agree on Gaza pullout plan

JERUSALEM—Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said he and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas agreed at a summit on Tuesday to coordinate Israel's Gaza pullout, but Palestinians described the talks as disappointing.

"We agreed during the meeting on full coordination of our departure from Gaza. A coordinated move will ensure a peaceful exit, something that is best for both sides," Sharon said, echoing remarks US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice made during a weekend visit.

Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qurie, who attended what officials described as a tense summit at Sharon's Jerusalem residence, said, however: "It was a difficult meeting and it did not meet our expectations." Qurie told a news conference in the West Bank that Sharon had failed to give any positive response to issues the Palestinians raised, citing the reopening of Gaza's airport and further releases of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.

Washington is counting on Israel's evacuation of all 21 settlements in Gaza and four of 120 in the West Bank to kick-start a US-backed international "road map" peace plan.

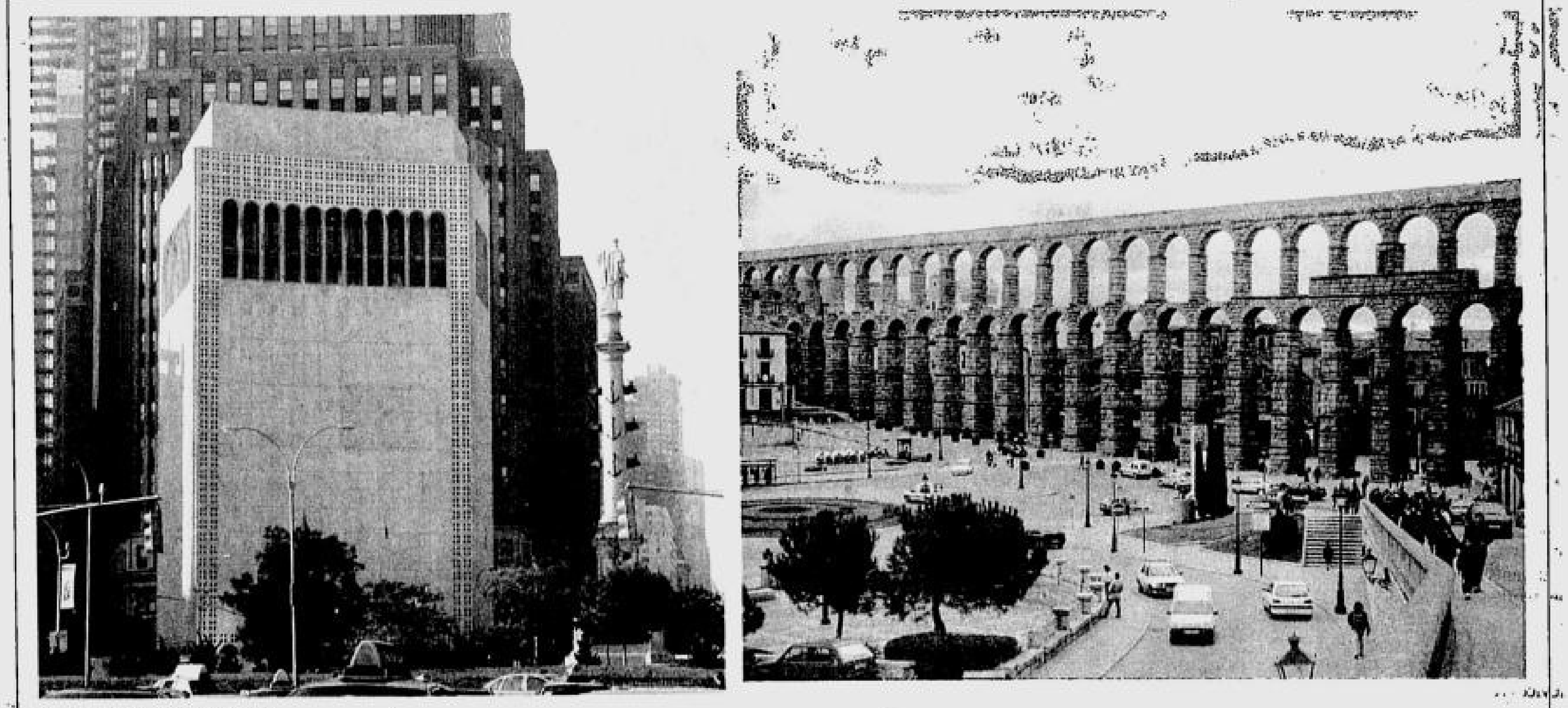
Sharon, however, reaffirmed his bedrock position that no progress could be made towards peace unless the Palestinian Authority led by Abbas cracked down on militants.

Addressing a hoteliers' convention, Sharon complained the Palestinian Authority had taken "little action to prevent terror" and he threatened tough military action if gunmen tried to disrupt the pullout set to begin in mid-August.

In a gesture to Abbas, Sharon offered to pull back Israeli forces from Bethlehem and Qalqilya in the West Bank within two weeks but conditioned the move on a credible Palestinian plan to rein in militants there, the Israeli leader's spokesperson said.

"We are still taking casualties," Sharon complained to Abbas in remarks picked up by a microphone that seemed to set the tone for the session, which lasted a little more than two hours.

The meeting was the first between an Israeli prime minister and a Palestinian president in the holy city at the heart of the Middle East conflict. *Reuters*



ENDANGERED SITES
This 2002 photo shows the North façade of 2 Columbus Circle in New York. This hotly debated "lollipop building" is on the World Monuments Fund's list of 100 most endangered sites, announced June 21. At right shows the Segovia Aqueduct in Segovia, Spain. The aqueduct, a miracle of Roman engineering, is also on the list. AP

Measures for evacuating US skyscrapers proposed

NEW YORK—A federal panel investigating the World Trade Center collapse is poised to recommend new safety standards for all tall buildings in the United States, including changes in construction and evacuation strategies, according to a published report.

The nonbinding recommendations by the National Institute of Standards and Technology are the culmination of a three-year study of tall buildings meant to help occupants survive terrorist attacks or natural disasters.

The proposals are to be officially released Thursday in New York and were first reported in The New York Times.

The panel recommends that evacuation plans be changed to provide faster escape routes for occupants of high floors, who investigators said tend to be isolated during emergencies.

The $16 million investigation also recommends that elevators be built with stronger shaft walls and equipped with wiring that won't short-circuit if they get exposed to water—thereby providing an alternate escape route to stairways.

Standards for ensuring that steel is fireproof also should be stricter, the panel said, and sprinklers should have a backup supply of water.

Structural engineers estimated the proposed changes would increase development costs for most buildings by about 2 to 5 percent, the Times reported.

Limited evacuation capacity at the World Trade Center could have led to 12,000 more deaths if the twin towers had been fully occupied during the attacks, the panel said. And if the towers had been full, it would have taken four hours to evacuate them—twice as long as either tower stood.

The International Building Code Council and the National Fire Protection Association, representing the insurance industry, will review the recommendations. *AP*

Former Klan leader found guilty over 1964 killings

PHILADELPHIA—A US jury on Tuesday convicted an aged former Ku Klux Klan leader and former Baptist preacher of manslaughter in the killings of three civil rights activists on the 41st anniversary of their deaths.

But the jury only agreed that Edgar Ray Killen, 80, was guilty of manslaughter after the prosecution withdrew harsher murder charges in the so-called "Mississippi Burning" case.

Relatives of the three victims, who were shot dead and had their bodies dumped under a dam, welcomed the verdict, but said more steps must be taken to rid the American South of its racist past.

Killen, who is in poor health, now faces up to 20 years in prison on each count against automatic life in prison if he had been found guilty on murder charges. He has denied the charges.

Killen's attorney, James McIntyre, said he would appeal because the prosecutors changed the charges at the end of the trial.

Killen was the first person to face charges of a direct role in killing Michael Schwerner, 24, Andy Goodman, 20, and James Chaney, 21, on June 21, 1964.

The trio—two whites from New York and one black from the southern state—were participating in a campaign to persuade blacks to register to vote.

The three were held at a police station on trumped-up speeding charges, then released late at night and ambushed by members of the Klan and police.

Their bodies, beaten and riddled with bullets, were dumped under an earthen dam and only found 44 days later, following an intense search.

Killen sat in a wheelchair with a breathing apparatus covering his face as he listened to the verdict.

He was accused of organizing the deaths, but had denied any involvement.

Prosecutors closed their case on Saturday after presenting testimony from an FBI agent who had infiltrated the KKK. The agent said in 1967 that Killen had told him, shortly after the killings, how the three activists had died and where they were buried. *AFP*

KILLEN

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World's 1st solar spacecraft lost after launch

MOSCOW—The Russian navy's Northern Fleet announced Wednesday the loss of the world's first solar-sail-powered spacecraft, Cosmos 1, after it was launched on a converted intercontinental ballistic missile from a Russian submarine.

A satellite monitoring the launch "didn't establish contact, which signifies its loss," a spokesperson for the Northern Fleet, Igor Dygalo, told AFP, referring to a signal that should have been picked up from the spacecraft.

The loss of Cosmos 1 was due to the failure of part of the Volna carrier that was expected to take the spacecraft into orbit after its launch from a submarine in the Barents Sea, Russia's Roskosmos space agency said on its Internet site.

"Due to the spontaneous failure of the motor of the first part of the Volna missile carrier at the 83rd second of the launch, the unique device 'solar sail' did not reach its orbit," Roskosmos said.

Russia's ITAR-TASS news agency cited a senior source involved in the project as saying the spacecraft had probably come down somewhere near New Zealand.

However, the US organization overseeing the project, the Planetary Society, said it was too early to write off the launch since signals had been picked up from Cosmos 1, albeit not in the correct orbit.

"We feel reasonably confident that what we saw was real signal... what this means is that we are probably in orbit, but it's not the orbit that we thought it was," the Pasadena, California-based Planetary Society said on its Internet site.

Signals from Cosmos 1 were meant to reach Earth once the craft reached orbit about an hour from its launch at 19:46 GMT on Monday.

With the project, scientists had hoped to prove that rays of light could provide a limitless energy propulsion source for space voyages.

Built by Russia's Lavochkin Association and the Russian Academy of Science's Space Research Institute, Cosmos 1 carried eight triangular sails made of tough, reflective and ultra-thin Mylar, one-fifth the thickness of a plastic trash bag.

Although the spacecraft weighed only 100 kg, its sails were together supposed to form an enormous mirror 30 meters in diameter that would absorb enough energy to propel it at much higher speeds than those reached by previous spacecrafts.

The joint US-Russian project cost four million dollars in private funds, with the bulk of funding coming from US Cosmos Studios, but the launch itself funded by the Russian government.

NASA has begun designing its own solar spaceship capable of carrying 240 kg, with a sail the size of a football field. *AFP*

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North Korea pledges not to possess nuke weapons if US is more friendly

SEOUL—North Korea said it wouldn't need any nuclear weapons if the United States treated it like a friend as the isolated nation joined South Korea on Wednesday for high-level reconciliation talks shadowed by the international standoff over the North's nuclear ambitions.

"If the United States treats the North in a friendly manner, we will possess not one nuclear weapon," the North Korean delegation said, according to Kim Chun-shick, spokesperson for the South's side.

The statement echoed a pledge by North Korean leader Kim Jong-Il who met Friday with visiting South Korean Unification Minister Chung Dong-young and said Pyongyang could return to international nuclear disarmament talks as soon as next month if it gets appropriate respect from Washington.

Chung, head of Seoul's delegation, on Wednesday urged the North to return to the nuclear talks in July, his ministry said in a summary of his remarks.

"The North Korean nuclear issue is a matter between the two Koreas as well as an international one," Kim Chun-shick quoted Chung as saying.

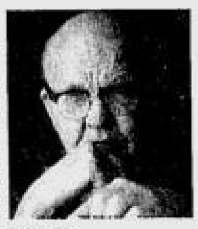
The North has stayed away from six-party talks aimed at persuading it to disarm since June 2004, citing "hostile" US policies, and declared in February that it had nuclear weapons. It has insisted that the nuclear standoff can only be discussed with the United States, and no breakthroughs on the issue were expected at this week's inter-Korean talks.

The two Koreas were instead focusing on aid and cooperative projects to bridge their divided peninsula, including cross-border trade and family reunions among Koreans separated since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War.

At the start of Wednesday's talks, the North requested food aid citing continuing shortages, Kim Chun-shick said. He declined to specify the amount but said it was on par with donations made in previous years. *AP*

RELIGIOUS TREK
Hindu pilgrims trek to the holy cave of Lord Shiva in Amarnath in the Himalayan mountains where they worship an ice formation they believe to be the symbol of Lord Shiva. REUTERS

IC inventor Jack Kilby dies at 81



KILBY

DALLAS—Nobel laureate Jack Kilby, whose 1958 invention of the integrated circuit ushered in the modern electronics age and made possible the microprocessor, has died after a battle with cancer.

Kilby died Monday at age 81 at his Dallas home, said Texas Instruments Inc., where he worked for many years.

Before the integrated circuit, electronic devices relied on bulky and fragile circuitry, including glass vacuum tubes. Afterward, electronics could become increasingly more complex, reliable and efficient: powering everything from the iPod to the Internet.

During his first year at Texas Instruments, using borrowed equipment, Kilby built the first integrated circuit into a single piece of semiconducting material half the size of a paper clip. Four years later in 1962, Texas Instruments won its first major integrated circuit contract for the Minuteman missile.

Kilby later co-invented the hand-held electronic calculator.

"TI was the only company that agreed to let me work on electronic component miniaturization more or less full time, and it turned out to be a great fit," Kilby wrote in an autobiography for the Nobel Committee in 2000, the year he won the prize for physics.

Today, integrated circuits are everywhere, from microwave ovens to Mars landers.

The contributions of Kilby are hard to overstate, technology experts say.

His 2000 Nobel citation said Kilby "laid the foundation of modern information technology."

"In my opinion, there are only a handful of people whose works have truly transformed the world and the way we live in it—Henry Ford, Thomas Edison, the Wright Brothers and Jack Kilby," TI chair Tom Engibous said in a statement Tuesday. "If there was ever a seminal invention that transformed not only our industry but our world, it was Jack's invention of the first integrated circuit."

Kilby's more than 60 US patents included one filed in 1959 for an integrated circuit made of the element germanium. *AP*

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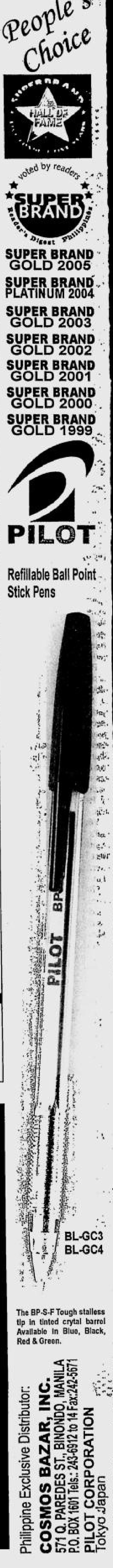

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lead you to only one place.

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Cypress NBO

Maria C. Cuña
Tindalo NBO

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Pa

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y L. Kho
lm NBO

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A question of survival

EDITORIAL

WITH oil prices shooting up to a record high and political passions almost as high, the news that the government is starting to rein in the budget deficit is welcome indeed.

The Department of Finance announced Monday that the budget deficit for the first five months of the year had reached P67.8 billion, a figure that is well below the P98.52-billion deficit earlier projected for the first semester of 2005. For the month of May, the DOF said, government revenues reached P68.2 billion, while its expenditures amounted to P75.8 billion, thus incurring a deficit of only P7.6 billion. The picture was even better a month earlier when the government posted a P3.3-billion surplus for April, the first time in four years that government revenues exceeded its expenditures. As a result, the government can spend P30.72 billion more than what it collects in June and still be within its target deficit for the first half of the year.

Finance officials are now predicting that the government will be able not only to hold down the deficit for the whole year to its target of P180 billion but also to even pare it down to P151 billion. And the nice thing about it is that the deficit is being contained not by cutting expenditures but by increasing collections. During the first five months of the year, total revenues rose by 11.6 percent to P322.3 billion while expenditures increased by 6.5 percent to P390.1 billion.

For this, the credit goes mainly to the Bureau of Internal Revenue, which has been exceeding its target collections in the last few months. Whether it's because internal reforms are kicking in and making collections more efficient or because the series of law suits against some prominent personalities has struck fear in the hearts of potential tax evaders, the BIR should sustain these efforts to make everyone pay the right taxes.

For the rest of the year, the prospects seem even better that government revenues will continue to grow as new tax laws, like the one increasing "sin taxes," come into effect. The amended value-added tax alone is expected to yield an additional P28 billion for the rest of the year.

All this means that the government, which has been forced to cut the budget to the bone to stave off a financial crisis arising from a crushing debt burden, need not scrimp further on much-needed social expenditures, such as for health and education, as well as for infrastructure and other development projects.

On the other hand, with the political pot continuing to heat up, the administration could find itself under strong pressure to appease so many interest groups whose support it needs to survive. Lawmakers, for example, could demand the full restoration of their pork barrel as payoff for ignoring the demand by some sectors that President Macapagal-Arroyo be impeached for stealing the 2004 presidential election. Business, whose support is deemed critical by government in times of peace and especially in times of political upheaval, has been asking for a reconsideration of certain provisions of the new VAT law, like the one raising corporate income tax to 35 percent.

It would be interesting to see how an administration besieged by controversy and weakened by questions about its legitimacy can hold off the demands of powerful sectors such as these. But it would be regrettable if the President throws away what is starting to look as a real chance to get out of the debt trap we have fallen into by entering into political compromises. She may survive politically, but the economy may not.

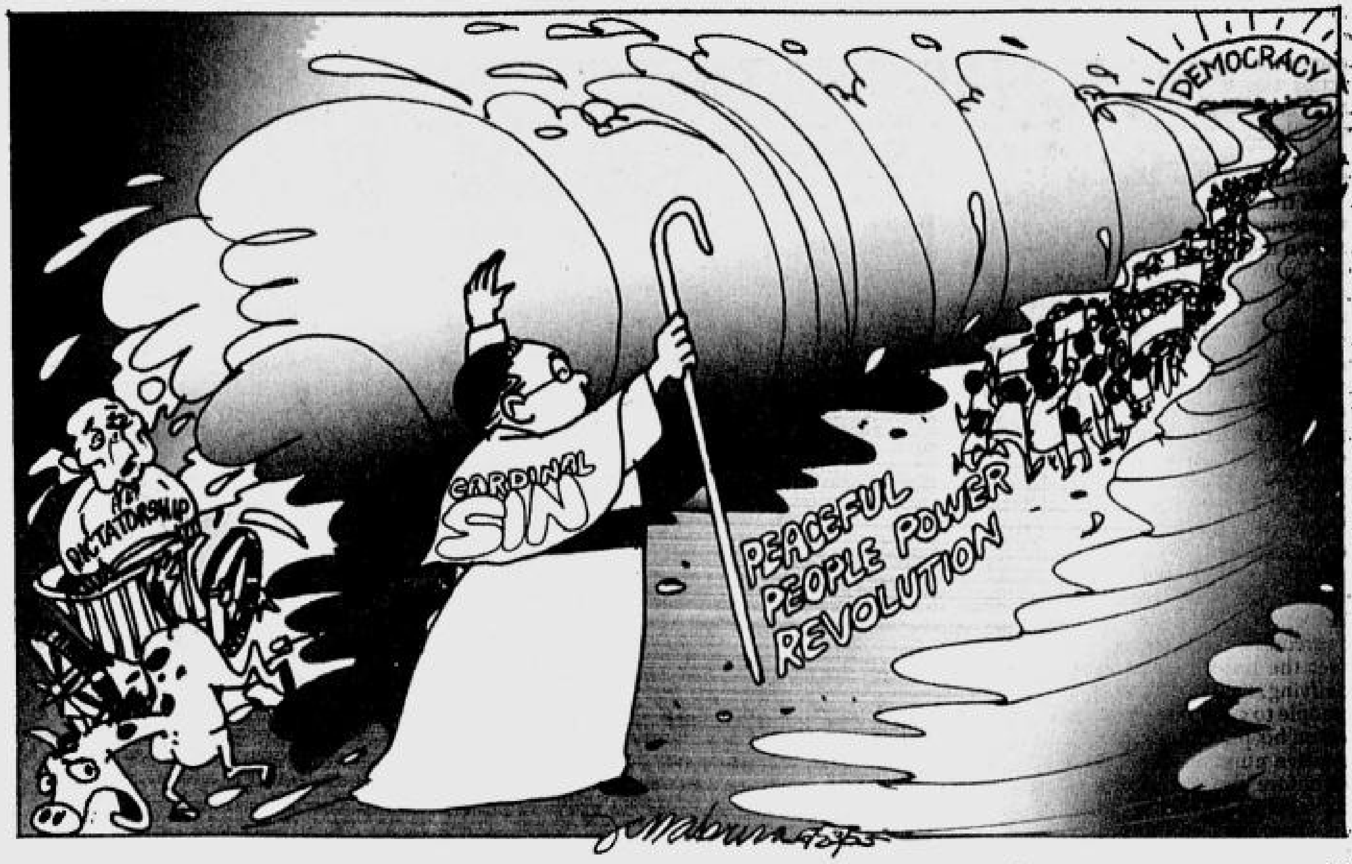
Radical transformation

FOREIGN COMMENT

WITH THE REFERENDUM on assisted fertility, Italians voted in favor or against the transformations of life and man himself that science and technology promised...in a way that was unforeseen.

The domain of men has developed in every sector, making them gods who are able to create life but did not solve the problems of living. Among the worries that threaten the powerful man, there's the sensation of manipulating life and nature, altering one's own identity until it is made unrecognizable. The pathos that characterized the debate (on the referendum) comes from the obscure, irrational, but not unfounded sensation that humanity is living a radical transformation in incredible and dizzyingly fast times.

Corriere della Sera (Milan, Italy)



'Cathedrals without a soul'

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"THE THINNER the facts, the shriller the voice," an editor snorted over coffee on how media cover today's spiral of probes from *jueteng* to wiretapped tapes.

A radio station excitedly reported a "raid" on ex-NBI agent Samuel Ong's home, the editor recalled. Ong claims to possess the "mother of all tapes" on election fraud. Within minutes, that triggered "*chismis* fission." Station after station repeated, embellished, commented, speculated—without verifying—the report. Finally, one reporter roused a sleeping caretaker at Ong's house. "What raid?" the bewildered man asked.

Meet the "journalism of unfiltered assertion."

"We're moving away from a journalism of verification, toward a journalism of assertion," write Harvard University's Nieman Foundation's Bill Kovach and Pew Trust's Tom Rosensteil. "And the cost to society is high."

Unchecked stories stud today's media. Cadres of "people who pronounce" deafen us with unedited bombast. Former Senate President Jovito Salonga, meanwhile, bewails the scrapping of congressional committee rules that sifted out "rank inadmissible hearsay" and safeguarded fairness.

Media's old rule-of-thumb held: the graver the charge, the higher degree of proof is required. But peddled under congressional immunity, hearsay is published wholesale. Is one paragraph saying "no evidence was presented," buried 10 column inches down, adequate?

"Are we journalists or garbage collectors?" The New York Times Abe Rosenthal once asked. "If some other journal or broadcast distributes unverified rumor—the equivalent of journalistic garbage—do we just pick it up and distribute it ourselves?"

In the "new impatient culture of journalism," you do.

"It's not a culture dedicated to establishing whether a story is true," observe Kovach and Rosensteil. Rather, "it seeks to influence events."

That suits spinmeisters of both the regime and opposition, as well as metastasizing communist fronts. They have their own axes. They only differ on which back to bury them in.

Assertion journalism rushes stories before they've have gone through the discipline of reporting. The rush to air and publish first leaves little time to take stock. Few sort out what is true . The significant is brushed aside.

Worse, the line between facts and comment is smudged. Columnists Nestor Torre and Manuel Quezon III, for example, skewered Pulso Aksyon Balita for blurring news with shrill partisan opinion.

"The foundation for journalism's role in society is a ruthless respect for the facts, " insists Columbia Journalism School professor Jim Carey.

The journalist's task is to sift fact from spin, argument from innuendo and provide citizens with accurate information for self-governance. But the new culture devalues that role. What should be a forum of debate turns into a launching pad for conflict.

Journalism is "about the daily discipline of accurate reporting and balanced comment," a Cebu Daily News editorial stressed. "Competence rooted in values empowers journalists to usher in an unfettered, humane and fair society...where the powerful exact what they want, and the poor grant what they must."

Cyberspace technology, meanwhile, jacks up the pressure. Computers have replaced typewriters. Internet rendered obsolete the carrier pigeon, the horseback express, telegram, teletype and fax.

"A labyrinth of technology madly rushes journalists into the future without any control," Colombian journalist and Nobel Laureate Gabriel Garcia Marquez told Latin American editors. "Never before has this profession been more dangerous."

We saw this in the Abu Sayyaf war. Kidnappers asked Zamboanga stations that their comments be aired. Unedited, the stations broadcast claims the bandits were holed up in Sulu, when they were elsewhere. "We merely reported," was the excuse for failure to verify.

In the movie "The Shattered Glass," a character underscores a function of the press that's glossed over. "We are," he said, "society's early warning system."

"Deep-running currents" will alter our world radically in the years ahead, the European Union's founding father Jean Monet stressed. "Shifts below surface"—from age structure, ecological decay to infant death rates and education deficits—need to engage the press more.

We must move beyond scandal muckraking to far-sighted reporting. The press must present context better. We need to explain significance. And we ought to pinpoint consequences tomorrow for today's decisions.

A media of assertion stunts our fulfilling that role. And media could become, as Journal de Geneve editor Claude Monnier warns, "cathedrals without a soul."

(E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph)

Fallacies

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE FIRST fallacy is the one being peddled by Bill Luz. That's the one that says we should stop protesting GMA's rule because it's bad for business. It's scaring off the investors and doing the economy harm.

Well, it's not entirely a fallacy in one sense. It is bad for business—of the kind Luz and his Namfrel pal, Jose Concepcion, represent. But that reflects more on what is good and bad for business than on what is good and bad for the nation. They are not the same, as we know very well from the record of business, like the US, supporting local SOBs simply because they are their SOBs. Lest we forget, business was the first to set itself squarely behind Marcos when he declared martial law. The only time they protested his iniquity was when it started victimizing them. When Marcos, not content with stealing from the people, began to steal from them.

Otherwise, it is a fallacy through and through, as shown by Luz's and Concepcion's ferocious thundering when it was Erap, and not their protégé GMA, who was wreaking the iniquity. And Erap's iniquity was confined only to stealing money, not to stealing votes. They never said then that protesting the occupation of Malacañang by a joker would scare off investors and would do the economy irreparable harm, they said the exact opposite. So why are they saying now that protesting the usurpation of the crown by a pretender would do exactly that?

Well, the answer to that lies in the conversation between GMA and Garcillano, specifically where Garcillano tells GMA, who has received word the Comelec and Namfrel counts do not jibe, not to worry, "*Ok naman ang Namfrel sa atin*. They are now sympathetic to us." Before this business is over, Luz (and Concepcion) will have much to answer for.

The second fallacy is the one being spouted by Prospero Pichay et al. That is the one that says GMA has not really committed a grave sin and doesn't deserve to be punished like Erap. There is a variation to that, which is that all GMA has to do is admit her sin publicly and apologize for it. By asking the nation's forgiveness, she might still be forgiven.

I was astonished to read last Sunday that my friend Jovito Salonga has flirted with the latter idea. "Since she is facing a dilemma, she cannot continue her silence. It is better to tell the truth.... What happened to Clinton (who admitted he lied about his affair with Monica Lewinsky and apologized for it) may happen to her. After all, there is no towering personality with great credibility in the opposition. All of them are tainted. The people may decide to forgive her."

I can only assume that Salonga hasn't heard the tape. There is quite a difference between Clinton's and GMA's crimes. Clinton merely screwed the American people by lying about screwing his intern, GMA has screwed the Filipino people by lying about screwing their vote. You can always question the sanity of a nation that wants to oust its president because he has been unfaithful to his marriage vows, but you may never question the sanity of a nation that wants to oust a President who has been unfaithful to her vows as a citizen.

I personally can forgive GMA if she admits to having that conversation with Garcillano, and agree that she should serve only one life term in Muntinlupa instead of two, or live only in this lifetime with Mike Arroyo instead of in the afterlife as well, whichever is the lighter sentence. But to allow her to continue to rule after this, that is not Christian charity, that is Mongoloid idiocy. My apologies to Mongols.

The third fallacy is the one being spat out by Code-NGO leaders. They say we should keep the status quo because the tapes are confusing to begin with and because we have no one to replace GMA.

In fact, the confusion lies only in their minds, which have been addled by money and power. They are confused about which one they like more. Since they got P1.4 billion in the form of the Peace Bonds, they have reinterpreted the words "civil" (in civil society) and "peace" to mean being civil to injustice and peaceable to oppression.

As to the notion that there is no one to replace GMA, well, unfortunately, Salonga seems to share the idea when he says the people may forgive GMA because no one currently fits the presidential bill.

As I said a few columns ago, that insults the 80 or so million souls in this country. But never mind the insult, just mind the logic. The argument is plain wrong. Why do you need anyone with a towering personality and great credibility to replace someone with an unscrupulous personality and an utter lack of credibility? As I said before, the Palace gardener would be a better replacement. Or less than the Palace gardener, Erap himself. That is so because any country will always be far safer with a president who won the elections and stole afterward than one who stole the elections to begin with. There will always be limits to the rapacity of the first, there will be none to that of the second.

Far more than that, what are we saying here? Public officials who became so by robbing the voters of their vote may not be removed from their posts until the voters can find a suitable replacement for them? The criteria for suitability moreover to be determined by those to be replaced, or the people who helped them get there? What are we saying here? That we may not confront evil as a categorical imperative until we can usher good as a relative choice? That is like saying we may not recover the goods a thief stole from us until we can prove to the judge we will have better uses for them. What kind of imbecility is that?

The hardest person to wake up, a local saying goes, is the one who is pretending to be asleep. The hardest person to enlighten, I say, is the one pretending to be confused.

A legend in the Church

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

IN THE LAST 25 years of his life, former Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin was very controversial and people loved or despised him, depending on which side of the political fence they stood. But no Church prelate has towered over his people as Cardinal Sin did, a feat he achieved through a combination of personal fearlessness and political flamboyance. I dare say he was a legend even within the Roman Catholic Church (starting with his name!), and it would be difficult for anyone among the current crop of Filipino prelates to match his stature.

* * *

We all have our recollections of him, which we will treasure in our own individual book of memories. Much of that, of course, would center on the most important political role he played in Philippine history: summoning his vast flock to Edsa armed with rosaries, holy statues, flowers and bread, to protect the military mutineers from the tanks of Marcos. On that momentous occasion, this columnist, then a political reporter for Eggie Apostol's black and white Mr. & Ms. Magazine, was covering candidate Cory Aquino in Cebu City where she had launched the boycott movement against Marcos crony products. When we heard the news that Enrile and Ramos had staked out in a mutiny at Camp Aguinaldo, it was electrifying to all those who had fought Marcos at various stages in his dictatorship. But when we heard that Cardinal Sin had called on the citizens to come out that night and surround the camp with their bodies to protect the mutineers, it proved even more electrifying. I recall that even as he called on the people to gather and mass at Edsa, he also called on his private army, the Carmelite contemplative nuns, to prostrate themselves all night before the Blessed Sacrament to pray for a peaceful and non-violent mass action.

Sin was a major player at Edsa but he never stopped being the "political prelate," making his voice heard on many political issues affecting the welfare of his spiritual flock. It was only when disease took its toll on him that his tongue seemed to have been silenced.

We will all miss him. May he get the peaceful repose of soul he justly deserves.

* * *

I must confess that since I visited South Africa last month, I have come to acquire an avid interest in the "dark continent," reading everything I can lay my hands on about Africa. I consider my visit there fortuitous since this has been declared the "Year of Africa." That there is renewed interest in this continent's welfare around the world can be gleaned from the fact that recently, the Group of 8 (G-8) richest nations of the world made possible "the biggest debt settlement the world has ever seen." In one stroke the G-8 nations condoned at least $40 billion in debts of the poorest of the poor nations, mostly in Africa, upon the representation of Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair and Japan's Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi. The writeoff of these African nations' debts should help them tackle a most serious problem in the continent that is aggravated by poverty: the scourge of AIDS. In South Africa alone, it's said that HIV-AIDS afflicts one in every four persons.

* * *

It is thus propitious that in this Year of Africa an African leader has come to make a first-time ever state visit to the Philippines. He is President Yahya A. J. J. Jammeh, president of Gambia in West Africa, who arrived in Manila for a three-day state visit that ends today. Gambia is a small, predominantly Muslim country in Africa whose importance far exceeds its territorial boundaries for it is one of the 16 members of the Committee of Eminent Persons which prepares recommendations for reform and restructuring to the influential 57-member Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC). Among this committee's tasks is the formulation of modes of admission or accession to the OIC. Thus, President Jammeh would certainly be very influential in gathering support for the Philippines as it seeks observer status in the OIC. Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo has been invited to the OIC meeting at the end of this month in Yemen, which is deemed highly significant as it comes a time when renewed talks between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front have reached a crucial phase.

* * *

President Jammeh is a military officer but he has earned decorations and awards not only in the military service but also in culture, medicine, education and professional administration from countries such as the United States, Libya, China, Canada, Italy and Lebanon as well as from various international organizations. Thus, with the respect for him in such groups as the OIC, the World Trade Organization, the World Health Organization and others, Jammeh would be valuable to us in rallying African support for various Philippine candidates in the multilateral bodies.

But more important perhaps, Gambia could be the door through which RP products can enter Africa, particularly manufactured goods such as garments, shoes and bags made in Marikina and Carcar, Cebu, furniture, processed and packaged foods and pharmaceutical products. One RP product that could sell well in Africa is virgin coconut oil, which local and international researches, particularly those conducted by the Georgetown University Medical Center in Washington, D.C., have found to have high medicinal and therapeutic value, particularly in strengthening the human immune system. There is a distinct possibility that our virgin coconut oil could yet prove to be the elusive remedy for HIV-AIDS, the scourge of Africa.

Another field that could be more aggressively explored following the Gambian president's visit is the export of Filipino services and professional expertise in agriculture, science and technology, health, medicine and construction.

* * *

Calling on all my fellow alumnae from the College of the Holy Spirit (Holy Ghost College in our time) HS Class of '56. A meeting will be held this Saturday, June 25 at 2 p.m. at Wack-Wack Golf Club Veranda Grill, courtesy of Dr. Cristina Eloriaga, to plan out our golden jubilee celebration next year.

Wiretappers, come forth

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

"YOU think something this high just happens?" This was "Deep Throat" speaking to Washington Post journalist Bob Woodward in a dark parking area. Follow the money, Deep Throat urged.

The scene is from the movie "All the President's Men" which was about the Watergate break-in scandal that led to the resignation of US President Richard Nixon after he was, to use Pinoy slang, *nabuking* (found out) wiretapping his opponents.

Deep Throat emerged last month, after 30 years of mystery, as former FBI deputy director Mark Felt, the deep source of Woodward and Carl Bernstein who would later win the Pulitzer for their investigative reporting.

You think something this high just happens? Follow the money. This could very well be good advice for those investigating the audiotapes of the alleged 2004 post-election conversation between President Macapagal-Arroyo and Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano. Now money is being followed on someone's say-so and deposed President Estrada's mistress Laarni Enriquez is being drawn into the picture. The plot is getting murkier.

It's been two weeks since the "Hello, Garci" tapes have been thrust upon us and circulated through all forms of communications media and no one among the alleged suspects in the activities in question (the act of wiretapping itself and the wiretapped conversation that could mean election fraud might have been committed) has come out to own up to or deny with credibility anything that had been committed. Not the President, not Garcillano, not the wiretappers.

The heat from all sides has so far been on Ms Arroyo, Garcillano and the tape leakers. But where are the wiretappers, the ones who actually did it? T/Sgt. Vidal Doble could not have done it alone and now he's claiming he had been terrorized into saying he had a part in it.

The President is still silent. But what do you expect? Silence is the last and only refuge other than telling the truth or telling a lie. As her body language shows, she won't be bamboozled into telling the truth or telling a lie.

One thing that could perhaps pin the President against the wall would be the wiretappers coming out to declare how, when, where and why they did it, criminal though their deed might have been, in order to serve what they thought might be a "higher cause."

Wasn't that what Fr. Jose Dizon of the street-oriented Left was saying while seated beside tape leaker, former NBI deputy director Samuel Ong (strange bedfellows, they), that while wiretapping was illegal there was a "greater moral evil" that needed to be exposed. The end justifies the means, in other words. This is now part of the new Catholic catechism?

What if the wiretappers from the military intelligence, as the leakers said they were, found no "greater moral evil" to show for their bugging expedition? If the buggers were from a private Wiretap Co., it wouldn't be so alarming. They had an illegal job to do and were being paid for it like guns-for-hire are. And as long as they didn't get caught…

But a government agency tasked to look after national security? An agency that is not supposed to be used even by the President or by her opponents for their vested interests. Was there a clear and present danger? Perhaps a Hitler-like president gone mad who might open an anthrax bottle in the dead of night and there was need to record his ululation?

How I wish Ong and the wire tappers had leaked their recording after Ms Arroyo was proclaimed winner and while Fernando Poe Jr. was still alive to claim victory. When Ong called on FPJ's widow Susan Roces to come see him at San Carlos Seminary where he had sought sanctuary, she obliged.

"My candidate is dead," Roces said when she emerged from their meeting. With the recent turn of events, Roces must feel FPJ has been vindicated. But smart that she is, there must be clouds of doubt in her mind. What if the buggers also bugged her husband to fish for anything for future use? Why didn't they use the "Hello, Garci" tapes, illegal though these may be, to advance FPJ's cause? Maybe they weren't for FPJ either and they also planned to spring a wicked surprise during FPJ's presidency.

Even while many are feasting on the tapes, the question "*Bakit ngayon lang?*" (Why only now?) is crying to be answered. Wiretappers, come forth!

Were the conversations authentic and were the things that were said concretized? Saying "Kill Bill" is different from having actually killed Bill. But this does not mean you cannot be held liable for your criminal intent. Being caught saying it on a bugging machine is another story.

The wiretappers coming forward to own up might be legally useless and they will end up in jail. But coming forward is one sure "patriotic" way to pin the President against the wall. If she were innocent, she should dare them to come out. And then she should come out herself to confirm or deny. But what if the buggers called her bluff and came out indeed? Bugger and bugged will both be damaged goods.

Read San Beda law dean Fr. Ranhilio C. Aquino's article "Wiretapping law: How is it violated?" (PDI, 6/19/05). It is very instructive.

There are those who think that a humble apology on Ms Arroyo's part (if it was all a mere impropriety) would put her back on track. They really think so?

By the way, there is more to Doble and Ong's seeking sanctuary in San Carlos Seminary than meets the eye, a Church "deep throat" said. How seminary authorities were caught by surprise, the role of Bishop Teodoro Bacani who apparently took in Ong. Bacani has himself been in a "sanctuary" status at the Bahay Pari in the compound since two years ago when something rocked his bishopric.

Reminder for sanctuary seekers: Seek the one in charge.

(Send comments to cerespd@info.com.ph)

'Ang pagtitiis kapaki-pakinabang'

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

(Mensahe sa 107-Anibersaryo ng proklamasyon ng kasarinlan, Tierra Bella Homes, Quezon City.)

NAKITA ni Rizal sa kanyang kapaligiran ang dinudulot ng kakulangan ng pag-asa. Sinikap niyang magbigay ng paraan upang maangkin ang pag-asa ng isang lipunang malaya ngunit responsable. Hanggang sa araw ng kanyang pagkamatay, nagalala si Rizal na kung hindi maisapuso ng kanyang mga kababayan ang kahalagahan ng pagtitiis bilang kinakailangang paraan upang makatatag ng isang lipunang makatarungan, magiging kaakit-akit ang dahas bilang paraan upang malutas ang kasalukuyang suliranin. Sa kanyang talambuhay ni Rizal, tinalakay ng yumaong mamamahayag na si Teodoro M. Locsin ang sumusunod:

"Ang tinig ng pagtitimpi na nagmamakaawa para sa nararapat na pagsasagawa ng batas sa ilalim ng ganap na kalupitan, na nakikipagtalo para sa posibilidad ng paghikayat sa tigre na baguhin ang kanyang mga guhit at itigil ang kanyang pagiging tigre, ay hindi nakakakilala sa tigre. Upang pakiusapan ang tigre at ang tupa na humiga nang magkasama sa kaamuan—na para bang ito ay maaring mangyari—ay nagtatanggal ng sandata sa tupa at nagpapakain sa tigre. Ito ay kahalintulad ng mga pariseo: paggawa sa kasamaan na may malinis na konsensiya. Sa wakas, ang tigre na namangmang na sa pamamalakad nang walang kalaban ay hindi na nakakaalam sa pagkakaiba ng kaibigan at pagkain at kakainin hindi lamang ang tupa kundi ang pariseo."

Narito sa sinulat ni Locsin ang problemang naidudulot ng pilosopiya ni Rizal. Lahat ng tao ay may hangganan sa kanyang kakayahang magtiis. Darating din ang araw kung saan sasabihin ng isang tao, tulad ng sinabi natin bilang sambayanan, na "Tama na, sobra na, palitan na." Dumating ang araw na ito sa katapusan ng buhay ni Rizal kung saan nagliyab ang ating himagsikan kontra sa Espanya. Sa aking pananaw, alam na ni Rizal na sa likod ng paghihimagsik ng kanyang mga kababayan, naitanim na niya ang pagmamahal sa kaalaman, katalinuhan, at pagtitiis sa kanilang mga puso. At kahit nakikita na nya na susugpuin ng mga dayuhan ang ating rebolusyon, naihanda na niya ang paraan upang makamit ng mga darating na salinlahi ang kalayaan.

Isa sa mga tagahanga ni Rizal at isa sa mga bayaning malapit sa kanyang katapatan at debosyon sa bansang Pilipino ay si Apolinario Mabini. Katulad ni Rizal, si Mabini ay isang intelektwal na naniniwala sa reporma bilang tiyak na paraan upang maitatag ang isang lipunang makatarungan.

Sinulat niya,

"Sa paglalagom, hindi nagtagumpay ang Rebolusyon dahil hindi tama ang pamamahala dito; dahil nakamit ng kanyang pinuno ang kanyang tungkulin sa pamamagitan ng mga kasuklam-suklam at hindi dahil sa mga kapuri-puring gawain; dahil sa halip na suportahan ang mga taong kapaki-pakinabang sa taumbayan, tinanggalan niya sila ng pakinabang dahil sa inggit. Sa pamamagitan ng pagtutulad ng pagpapayaman ng sambayanan sa kanyang sariling pagpapayaman, hinusgahan niya ang halaga ng tao hindi batay sa kanilang kakayahan, pagkatao, at pagkamakabayan kundi sa tindi ng pakikipagkaibigan at pagiging kadugo niya; at dahil sa siya'y hindi mapakali na makuha ang kahandaang magsakripisyo ng buhay para sa kanya ng kanyang mga paborito, hinahayaan niya sila kahit sa kanilang mga pagkakamali. Dahil pinabayaan niya ang sambayanan, tinalikuran din siya ng sambayanan; at sa pagtalikod sa kanya ng sambayanan, hindi nakakapagtaka na siya ay bumagsak katulad ng isang imaheng gawa sa pagkit na natutunaw sa init ng kasawiang-palad. Nawa'y ipagkaloob ng Diyos na hindi natin malimutan ang kasindak-sindak na aral na ito na natutunan kapalit ng hindi mailarawang paghihirap."

Sa kasaysayan ng ating bayan, paulit-ulit nating nakikita ang pag-apaw ng kawalan ng pagtitiyaga sa umiiral na sistema. Ngunit nakikita rin natin ang paulit-ulit na pagsilang ng panibagong pag-asa na dulot ng pagbabago. Habang mayroon tayong natututunan mula sa mga nakaraang krisis, naghahanap pa rin tayo ng paraan upang mapag-ingatan ang dagdag na kamulatan na dulot ng pakikipaglaban natin sa mga dayuhan, diktador at mga mapanlinlang na pinuno. Ngunit hindi na natin kailangan pang lumayo upang makahanap ng mga solusyon sa ating mga suliranin. Ang kasagutan ay matagal nang nariyan sa mga kasulatan ni Rizal. Ang kaliwanagan na dulot ng buhay at kasulatan ng ating pambansang bayani ay ang kaisa-isang paraan upang maiwaksi ang kakulangan natin ng pag-asa; ang pag-iintriga at inggit sa isa't isa; ang pagkukulang sa pananagutan at pagkatotoo ng mga hinahalal at naghahalal. Sa masakit, mahirap, at mabagal na pagsasagawa ng pag-ani ng kaalaman, katalinuhan, at pagtitiyaga lamang makakamit ang lipunan ng Pilipinong walang sinasambang mga hari kundi kapatiran at kalayaan.

Sa totoo lang, ang daan tungo sa kalayaan ay naitakda sa dugo ng mga martir na namamatay dahil sa kanilang mapayapang pagkontra. Ang tagumpay ng kalayaan sa kasaysayan ng Pilipinas ay hindi nakakamit sa pamamagitan ng bala at dahas kundi sa pagtitiis, sa pagpapakita ng isang buhay na makatarungan, at sa kamatayan na marangal. Noong sinuri ng Kastilang doktor ang pulso ni Rizal bago siya barilin, nagulat ang doctor dahil panatag ang pulso nito. Sa kadalisayan ng kabutihan nagmumula ang pag-asa sa kinabukasan.

Sister's love story

YOUNG BLOOD

Annie R.

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I WAS in my third year of high school when I experienced my first and my most painful heartbreak, so far. The guy was everything I could hope for. He was good-looking, kind, intelligent, rock-star cool and, best of all, he was one of my best basketball buddies. I considered him to be perfect—until I saw him out on a date with another girl.

It happened seven years ago, but everything about that day is still clearly etched in my mind. It was a Saturday, and my friends and I were supposed to watch "Titanic" later that night but we decided instead to catch an earlier screening to escape the afternoon heat and humidity. I saw him as soon as I entered the theater. I was surprised that he was there since he had told me only a few days earlier that he could not stand Leonardo di Caprio. I walked toward where he was sitting and was about to tap his shoulders when he suddenly placed his arm around the girl sitting beside him. I felt a prickly, tingling heat travel from the base of my spine to my neck and all the way to the tip of my ears. I left the theater (this explains why I am probably the only female on earth who hasn't seen the movie) and broke up with the guy the next day.

Like any other 15-year-old girl who has gotten her heart broken, I thought it was the end of the world. I thought that the giddy feeling you get when you receive flowers and love letters is not worth the heartbreak that comes afterwards. I did not relish the idea of falling for another guy again. I was ready to give up on love and all its sweet promises.

But the thing about love is, when you think you have become totally jaded and you are ready to abandon it, something (or someone) happens to pull you right back in. While in most cases heartbreaks were cured by a new love, my "savior" did not come in the form of Prince William, or at least, his look-alike. Rather, my belief in love was rekindled by a 40-year-old nun.

A few months after I had caught my boyfriend cheating, a few classmates and I dropped by the office of Sister Loraine, our Religion teacher. In the middle of our mindless chatter, a brave classmate suddenly asked sister the question we had all wanted to know but only talked about between ourselves: Had she ever had a boyfriend? I winced, pretty sure that we would get a lecture on tack and sensitivity. But instead, sister smiled and began to tell us her story:

She was a college junior when she met her first and only boyfriend. After three years of being together, the guy asked her to marry him. She did not accept his proposal; she wanted to wait for a few more years since she wasn't ready to get married yet. The guy understood, gave her the ring and, with a smile, told her that he would wait for her to pop the question to him instead. He never got the proposal; a year later she told him of her decision to become a nun.

He did not try to stop her, but he told her that he would wait for her to change her mind. So every year for the next 10 years, the guy would come and ask her to marry him, and each time she turned him down gently. On the eleventh year, the guy came back, but this time, he did not propose. He said that he knew she loved him, but he also understood that she loved God more. He said he was finally giving her up and letting her go.

Sister told us she had only seen the guy twice ever since, and on both occasions the guy never talked or approached her but only smiled from a distance.

Though sister's story did not end in the usual Hollywood fashion wherein the boy gets the girl, it has taught me a lesson that even the most romantic Audrey Hepburn movie could only hope to impart. It made me realize that there is truth behind the cliché, "It is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all." The whole time sister was talking about the guy and what went on between them, she had this gentle expression on her face that bespoke of happiness and love. I realized that when she was telling us her story, she wasn't thinking of the sorrow and the pain brought about by having to part with the man she loved for her vocation. She was thinking instead of the fun times they had shared and the love they had had. Sure, they ended up going their separate ways, but at least they discovered the joy in sharing a bowl of chocolate ice cream, the happiness found in holding hands and the magic of slow dancing to a Sinatra love song. How many people can honestly say that they have been lucky enough to have had eyes gaze gently, lovingly at them?

I have had other unsuccessful relationships since my first crack at love, and I know that I may or may not find the man whom I would never want to spend another day without. But I am sure that 30, 40 years from now, my old sentimental heart would look back at life with a little smile, a few tears, a lot of good memories, and the happy thought that, at least once in my life, I found love.

Annie R., 21, is a BA Social Science graduate of the University of the Philippines Manila.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

If you are sending your contributions by e-mail, please address it to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address and information about your age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with.

THEY SAID

Cha-cha cat

"It doesn't matter if the cat is black or white as long as it catches the mice."

—House appropriations committee chair Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr., favoring the constituent assembly over Charter change

Half-hearted war

"The *jueteng* lords will continue to build their underground gambling empire, and the PNP will make occasional but half-hearted raids on jueteng dens just to protect the image that it's doing its job."

—Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran on the "powerlessness" of PNP in fighting jueteng

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Government repression of media on tapes

THE UNDERSIGNED faculty members of the University of the Philippines-College of Mass Communication express grave concern over the government treatment of mass media when it comes to coverage of the allegedly wiretapped conversations between President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and a commissioner of the Commission on Elections.

The National Telecommunications Commission has reminded radio and television stations, especially all broadcasters, to be careful and circumspect in their reportage, coverage and discussion of the tapes, warning that if the tapes are found to be fake, the licenses of the radio and television stations broadcasting or airing them will be suspended, revoked or cancelled.

If the government truly supported self-regulation by the media, the NTC reminder was unnecessary, even uncalled for. Given the volatile political situation, the media cannot be blamed if the NTC reminder was construed as an assault on the freedom of the press and expression. Neither does it help the government that the justice secretary has ordered the National Bureau of Investigation to go after media organizations that are playing and printing the contents of the tapes. If wiretapping is illegal, then those who allegedly wiretapped the conversations should be the ones held liable, not the media that only report the commission of the crime.

We believe that the truth is better served if the media are allowed to present the data that they gather and the analyses that they come up with, free from pressure from government regulatory agencies.

Media organizations are duty-bound to report not only the contents of the tapes but also the related events as they unfold, particularly the government officials' handling of the situation and the reactions of various interest groups. These are matters of national interest.

Instead of trying to prevent the mass media from airing the allegedly wiretapped conversations, government officials should correct whatever inaccuracies or unfair reports media agencies commit. Instead of being silent or instead of threatening the mass media and free expression, they should issue clarifications. Media reports are crucial to the shaping of informed public opinion.

We call on government to treat journalists as responsible individuals who may be justly criticized only if they engage in unethical and irresponsible media practices, but not for doing their job of providing the public with information crucial to the understanding of political and governance issues. The government's handling of media at this point shows that the former is not erring on the side of caution, but on the side of media repression.

—PROF. DANILO A. ARAO
and 17 OTHER SIGNATORIES,
faculty members
of the University of the Philippines
College of Mass Communication,
Diliman, Quezon City

No classroom shortage in BHNHS

THE FRONT-PAGE photo of the Batasan Hills National High School in the June 7 issue of the INQUIRER conveyed the impression that there is a shortage of classrooms at this school. The impression that the city government did not anticipate this problem is unfair.

Mayor Feliciano Belmonte has earmarked over P22 million for a four-story school building. This is aside from the almost completed additional third floor for one of the existing school buildings, which will cover the classroom requirements for this year. Construction of the four-storey building should have started last year but for the presence of about 80 families of informal settlers. The resettlement of these families have been arranged. We hope this project will be completed in time for the next school year.

Batasan Hills National High School was founded in 1998 with only about 500 students. Today, it has over 10,000 students. It is in anticipation of its rapid growth in enrollment that the city government is setting aside more funds for school buildings and other school facilities.

—TADEO M. PALMA,
secretary to the mayor,
Quezon City

LETTERS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Absolutely untrue

THIS refers to the persistent accusations being made by Sen. Aquilino Pimentel that I was spotted in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao during the election period and during the time that I was allegedly talking with President Macapagal-Arroyo and the First Gentleman as contained in the controversial tape aired last June 6 in radio and TV stations. This is absolutely untrue. For the record, I was in Mindanao only on the following dates for the specified purposes:

March 12-15, 2004—accompanied Chairman Benjamin Abalos and Commissioner Manuel Barcelona Jr. to the islands of Sulu and Tawi-Tawi; March 24-26, 2004—accompanied Barcelona for familiarization in the Caraga Region—Agusan del Norte and Sur;

April 2, 2004—accompanied Abalos during the "Peace Covenant" signing in Marawi City;

April 18-19, 2004 last visit to Mindanao)—seminar of Comelec employees of Region 10 in Cagayan de Oro City.

While I have a residence at Cagayan de Oro City, I have not been there during the election period except for the dates above-mentioned. These can be verified with the various airlines and shipping lines serving the area. The hectic preparation for the 2004 elections demanded that I should be in the Comelec main office and at the same time closely monitor my assigned tasks in supervising the preparations in Regions 4 and 5, of which I was the commissioner in charge. I was not the commissioner in charge of any regions in Mindanao or even the ARMM, and I had no business being there. I also never left Metro Manila, where the canvassing for the senators and party-list representatives were being held at the PICC, until after the proclamation of the winners.

Invented stories and unfounded charges should never be countenanced.

—VIRGILIO GARCILLANO,
commissioner,
Commission on Elections,
Intramuros, Manila

Justice secretary may have committed some crimes

JUSTICE Secretary Raul Gonzalez exposed his ignorance of the law when he warned the media and the public of criminal prosecution under the Anti-Wire Tapping Act, for mere possession of the "Gloria-gate tapes." His ignorance was further exposed when the Department of Justice itself failed to file charges against Samuel Ong for wiretapping as the secretary had promised. How could he prosecute others for mere possession when he couldn't even file a case against the very source of the supposed wiretapped tapes?

The Pro-People Law Network recently conducted a legal study on the transcript of the Gloria-gate tapes and has concluded that President Macapagal-Arroyo committed impeachable offenses for violating the Omnibus Election Code (coercion of election officials); the Revised Penal Code (bribery) and the Anti-Graft Law (influencing or persuading a public official to commit a crime).

The Anti-Wire Tapping Act requires that for a wiretap to be illegal, all parties to a private communication must not have given consent to it. In the absence of any statement from the concerned parties, saying they did not consent to the wiretap, the vital element with which the DOJ can prosecute is missing. Like the private crime of adultery, the DOJ cannot file a case without the complaint of the parties to the conversation.

Furthermore, the law requires that for the possession of the tapes to be illegal, the possessor must "knowingly possess" the tape and also know that it was "secured in the manner prohibited by the law." None of the possessors, not even the justice secretary knows whether or not it was secured in violation of the anti-wiretapping law. The lame excuse of Secretary Gonzalez that he cannot file a case against Ong because "we don't know where he is" further adds to the suspicion that his knowledge of the law has been dulled by his years in Congress. Any freshman law student knows that a criminal complaint can be filed even if the authorities do not know the whereabouts of the accused.

The statements of Secretary Gonzalez, however, are a threat to freedom of expression as they create a "chilling effect" on the exercise of press freedom and civil rights. Furthermore, his discriminatory or selective prosecution of Ong for inciting to sedition while "neglecting" to file similar charges against Sen. Aquilino Pimentel and Gen. Fortunato Abat, violates not only the equal protection clause of the Constitution. It could also render him liable under Article 208 of the Revised Penal Code, which provides for a penalty of *prision correccional* upon a public official who in dereliction of his duties, "shall maliciously refrain from instituting prosecution for the punishment of the violators of the law or shall tolerate the commission of offenses."

—NERI JAVIER COLMENARES,
Convenor, Pro-people Law Network,
codal.info@gmail.com

Credible president

TO BE credible in her pronouncements, President Macapagal-Arroyo should set the example of being frugal, professional (instead of coming too strong or *mataray*) in her demeanor, and decisive in her actions and policies.

She has to do away with travels overseas, which entail dollar outlays to cover the expenses of her entourage.

She likewise must refrain from berating or scolding in public Cabinet members or anybody who gets her ire.

If she could do all these, then GMA could become a credible President.

—BENJIE R. PANGAN,
Mabalacat, Pampanga, 2010

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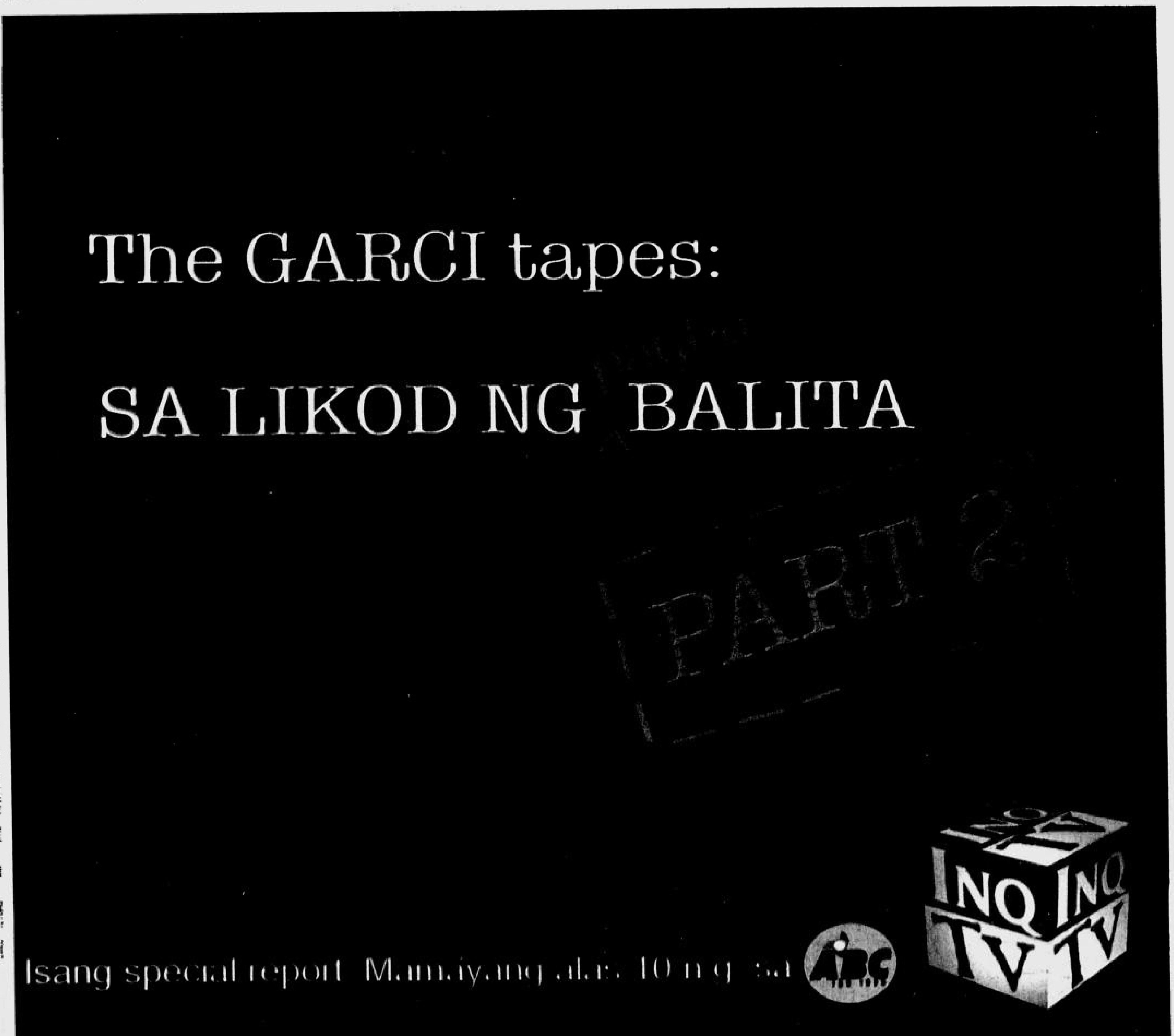

Across the NATION

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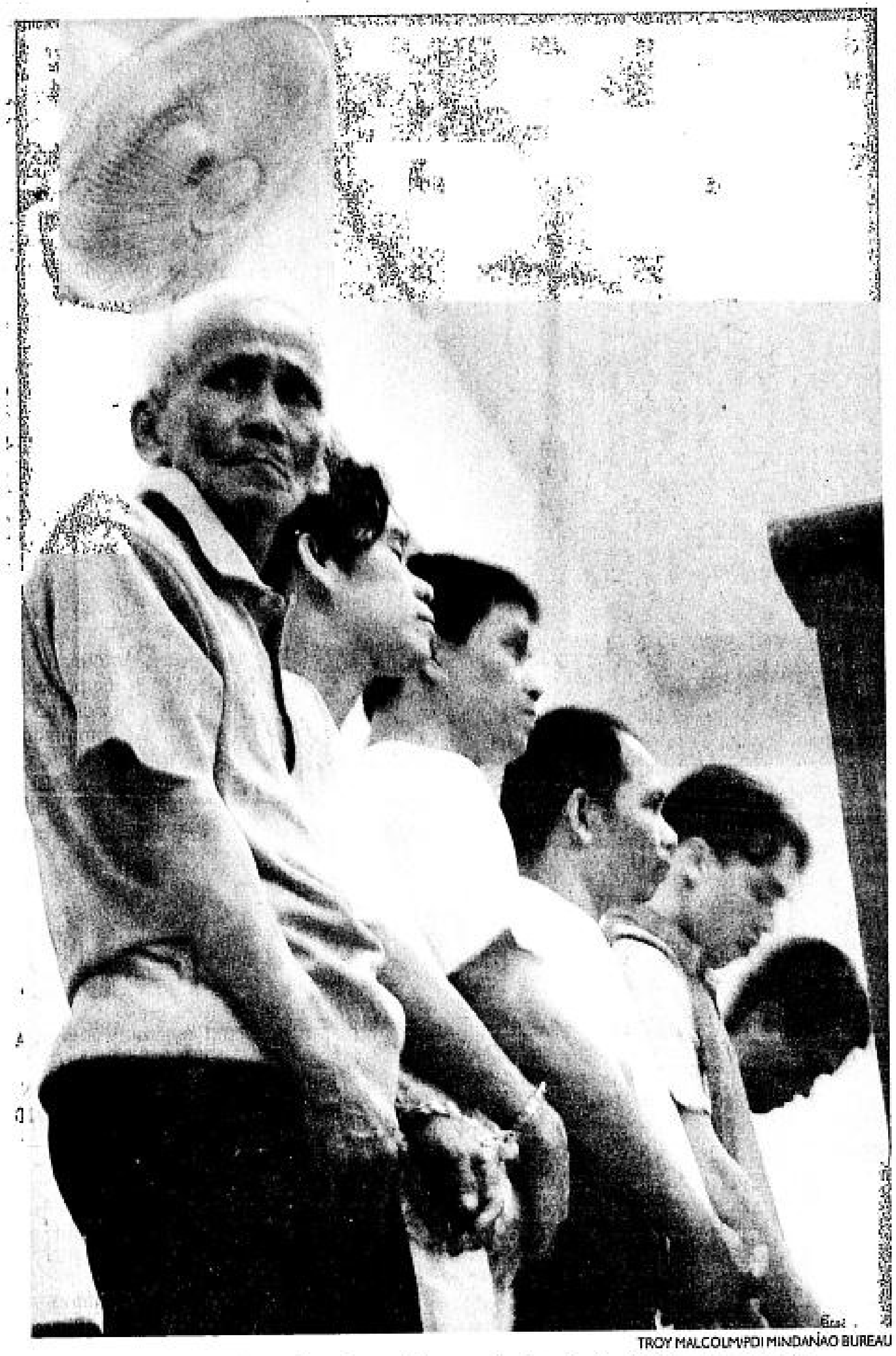


TROY MALCOLM/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

SIX OF the seven Abu Sayyaf members who were involved in the Balobo Massacre in Lamitan, Basilan in 2001 listen as their death sentences are read. The judge handed each of them 12 death sentences for the kidnapping and beheading of innocent civilians.

7 Sayyaf men get 12 death sentences each

ISABELA CITY—A court here yesterday handed down 12 death sentences to at least seven Abu Sayyaf bandits involved in the abduction and beheading of several victims in Lamitan in 2001.

Judge Leo Jay Principe of the Regional Trial Court Branch 1 here, said he had no difficulty arriving at the decision.

"I don't really have this compunction in handing down the death penalty. My conscience would not bother me at all," Principe told the INQUIRER after the promulgation.

Convicted were Ibrahim Bowak alias Ibba, Muddas Sabinul alias Abu Mudas, Abdulla Uwa, Daud Indaling, Etang Awal, Jimmy Theng and Janital Bolnet Wahid.

They did not show any emotion when the verdict was read.

The seven convicts were earlier charged with murder and kidnapping with serious illegal detention in connection with the abduction of more than 40 people, including children, during an Abu Sayyaf attack on Sitio Campo Tres in Barangay Balobo on the evening of Aug. 2, 2001.

Ten male captives were beheaded during the attack while 34 women and children were taken as hostages. One of the female captives was also sexually abused.

Graciela Ramirez, 60, mother of two of the beheaded captives wept while the verdict was being read.

"The death sentences were not enough, the court should have sentenced them to life imprisonment so that they will languish longer in jail. I want them to suffer longer," Ramirez said.

But the hostage who was raped by the bandits said she was relieved with the verdict.

"There is still justice for us poor people. Now I will just wait for their time to die," she said.

Another hostage, who also attended the promulgation of the decision, said the death sentences were just apt.

"They could escape or make an appeal to the court [if lighter sentences were handed down]," he said.

The seven convicts were to be transferred to Taguig in Metro Manila yesterday.

Six of the defendants stood impassively while their relatives wept and embraced each other as the verdict was read out inside a small and heavily guarded building in the provincial capital of Isabela.

Etang Awal remained at large and was sentenced in absentia.

Under the law, those convicted would be executed by lethal injection.

The case stemmed from an Abu Sayyaf raid on a farm near the town of Lamitan in August 2001.

The gunmen, disguised as soldiers, abducted a group of farm workers and later beheaded nine of them. Another hostage was shot dead while at least two other captives escaped unhurt. *Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau with AFP*

Lanao group bares anti-GMA plot

THE LANAO Unity Government (LUG), a group supporting President Macapagal-Arroyo, revealed efforts by a group identified with the opposition to recruit it for an anti-Arroyo rally and a bid to bring down the Arroyo administration.

The LUG, in a press statement, said the effort to recruit it for the anti-Arroyo campaign included an attempt to convince the LUG to turn its back against Ms Arroyo and declare that she cheated in the May 2004 presidential elections.

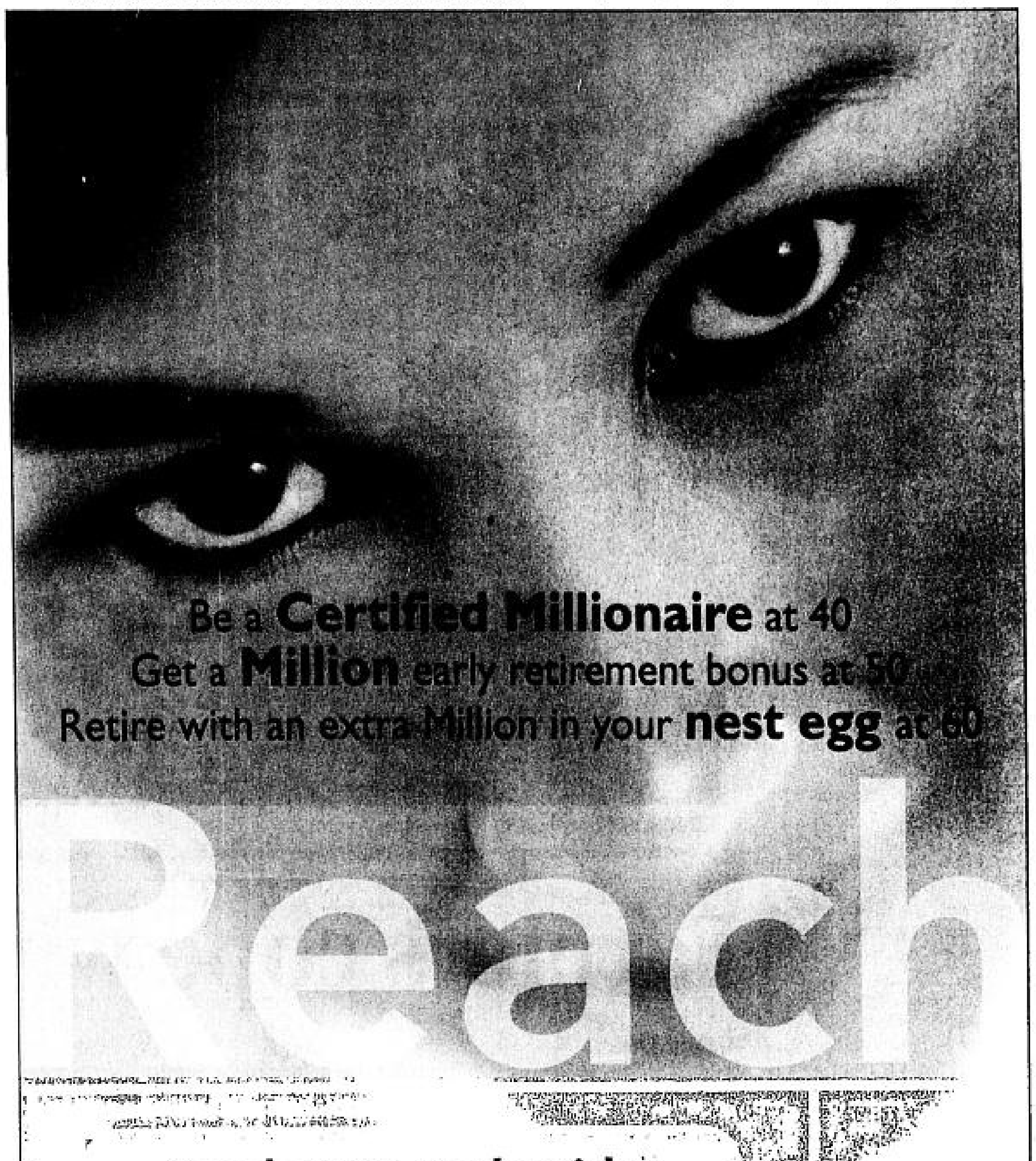
According to Macoy Lucman, president of the LUG, a former immigration commissioner who is closely identified with ousted President Joseph Estrada called his group several times to arrange a meeting but leaders of the LUG turned down the invitation.

The former immigration commissioner, Lucman said in a statement, also instructed the LUG to link up with a former agrarian reform secretary to give testimonies on alleged cheating in Lanao del Sur by Ms Arroyo and her campaign workers.

Lomala Makadaub, a member of the LUG, said in the same statement that there was no vote rigging in Lanao. He said it was a fact that Ms Arroyo even lost in Lanao del Norte.

"Our people are ready to die to defend their votes," said Makadaub.

The Lanao Unity Government is composed of different opposition parties who supported the candidacy of the late actor Fernando Poe Jr. but switched to Ms Arroyo's camp weeks before the elections.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Negros jeep drivers can't afford fare hike matrix

BACOLOD CITY—Many jeep drivers in Negros Occidental were unable to collect the P1 increase in fare rates which took effect on Tuesday because they could not yet pay for the matrices they would need before they could implement the fare hike.

Elizabeth Katalbas, president of the Federation of Bacolod City Drivers Association (Febacba), said many drivers did not have the money to pay the P520 fee imposed by the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) for the matrices that had to be posted in their vehicles to allow them to collect the new minimum fare of 6.50.

Queue

Other drivers did not also have the time to line up at the LTFRB office so they could get the matrices, according to Jessie Ortega, secretary general of the United Negros Drivers Operators Center.

Katalbas said Febacba would demand that they would only be made to pay half of the P520 fee for matrices since the fare increase in the Visayas was only P1, not P2 as they had demanded.

She said the Febacba, along with other transport groups in the Visayas and Mindanao, will continue to press for a P2 fare hike because gasoline is more expensive in the provinces.

More hardships

She added that they had projected that with the implementation of the Value-Added Tax in July, fuel prices would go up by P3 per liter.

"At the rate oil prices are going up, only the big jeepney operators will be able to continue to operate—the single operators will not be able to survive," she said.

Gas prices have been escalating following a series of increase in the cost of imported crude oil.

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

LINGAYEN SUNSET

A wooden cross is seen towering over these fishermen's houses, during sunset along the Lingayen coast in Lingayen, Pangasinan.

TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Farmers cope with Luisita hardship

By Russell Arador

PDI Central Luzon Desk

HACIENDA LUISITA, Tarlac City—Out of work since he and his fellow sugarcane workers in Hacienda Luisita struck in November last year, 30-year-old Fortunato Avila of Barangay Asturias here began cultivating last month a half-hectare portion of the vast sugar estate owned by the Cojuangco family.

To stave off hunger, Avila's family planted it with corn, eggplant, string beans, gourd, bitter gourd, squash and cucumber.

Eduardo de la Cruz, 38, and his father Federico, 65, did the same to a one-hectare plot.

The two belong to the United Luisita Workers Union (Ulwu) and hold shares of stocks at Hacienda Luisita Inc. (HLI), the company created to carry out the Cojuangcos' compliance with Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program's (Carp) stock distribution option (SDO) scheme.

Prolonged strike

With eight children to feed, and with the sugar farmers' and mill workers' strike now on its seventh month, the younger De la Cruz said he had no choice but to make the land available for his family's survival.

"Para mabuhay (For us to live)," he said.

To dramatize their plight, striking Luisita farm and mill workers harrowed a portion of idle sugar land in Barangay Balete here using plows driven by carabaos.

Earlier, a short program was held in the main picketline at the sugar estate's Gate 1. Workers marched toward Barangay Balete, site of the "symbolic cultivation of idle Luisita lands."

Rainy season

"The people of Hacienda Luisita have decided to till and make productive certain portions of the idle Hacienda Luisita to stave off hunger in the current rainy season," said Rene Galang, Ulwu president.

The decision, he said, was the "direct result" of the failure of the Luisita management and striking workers to reach an agreement. Early this year, HLI declared a temporary stop to operations.

"As the strike wore on, the workers and their families had experienced extreme economic hardships, including lack of food and hunger, thus the decision to collectively make portions of the idle hacienda land productive," he said.

Aside from farmers De la Cruz and Avila, other families have planted rice and vegetable crops in practically all of the 10 barangays comprising the hacienda, Galang said.

But while there is a proliferation of small vegetable plots being cultivated in the hacienda, the farm workers are only "asserting the right to till the land, and not claiming actual and legal ownership," he said.

Police have reported the alleged infiltration of communist cadres in the hacienda strike but the union denied this.

Authorities pointed to what they said were communist documents that would show proof of communist guerrillas' involvement in the strike.

ROUNDUP

2 rebs arrested

CAMP MELCHOR DE LA CRUZ, Isabela—Army soldiers arrested two suspected New People's Army guerrillas and seized four guns after a clash in San Mariano town on June 16. Maj. Victor Tanggawohn Jr., spokesperson of the Army's 5th Infantry Division here, said the soldiers engaged the suspected rebels in a clash in Barangay Daragutan in San Mariano. Tanggawohn identified the arrested men as Raffy Valencia, alias Ka Butch, and one Ka Maya. Seized from them were three M-16 rifles and a Baby Armalite rifle. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

2 men die in shootout

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Two men were killed after they shot each other in Lubuagan, Kalinga on June 12. Supt. James Dogao, Kalinga police director, said Henry Incio, 42, and Noman Caminto, 29, started fighting while they were in a drinking session in Barangay Poblacion in Lubuagan. After the fight, Incio went home to get his shotgun but Caminto, who was carrying an M-16 rifle, followed him. Dogao said Incio and Caminto then engaged in a gun duel. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

'Slow justice' for German trader

MATI, Davao Oriental—A German businessman who was robbed of half a million pesos in November last year has complained of what he called slow justice system in the country. Andreas Steinl, who is engaged in small-scale mining, said he filed charges against five suspects in a court in Cateel town in November, "but up to now, the court has yet to hold a hearing on the case I lodged." Steinl said said the suspects have been released on bail. *Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

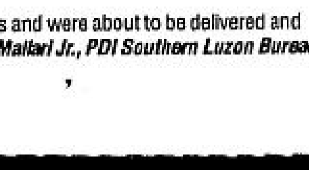
Old farmer arrested

LUCENA CITY—Policemen in Pitogo town in Quezon arrested a 77-year-old farmer brandishing an unlicensed gun in a drinking session on Wednesday. A report said police received a text message from a concerned citizen about Dionisio Bandora of Barangay Quezon, Pitogo town, who was then in a drinking session in a store with a gun tucked on his waist. When the farmer was being investigated at the station, police discovered that the old man had a pending warrant of arrest on charges of grave threat. The suspect was detained at the municipal jail. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Businessman robbed

CANDELARIA, Quezon—A businessman was robbed of at least P400,000 cash and personal belongings while on board his motorcycle on Thursday, police said. The victim was identified as Kingsan Tan, 31, assistant manager of Golden Sun Lumber located in this town. The report said the victim, who had just come out of a bank, was riding on a motorcycle when two unidentified suspects suddenly got into the vehicle in the corner of Cabunag at Nadres streets in the town proper and at gunpoint robbed the victim of cash, wallet and mobile phone. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

2 held for cattle rustling



LUCENA CITY—Two persons suspected of cattle rustling were arrested by members of police in a checkpoint in front of the police headquarter in Barangay Kiloloron, Real, Quezon on Thursday. A report said that when the police flagged down an Izusu Elf with plate number TTH-468, the lawmen discovered two carabaos on board but with spurious documents. It said the animals came from Tanauan, Batangas and were about to be delivered and slaughtered in Infanta. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

DENR warns Naga City not fit for tall buildings

NAGA CITY—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has warned that construction of buildings more than five stories high in a large portion of the central business district (CBD) here should strictly comply with technical studies on soil.

Rey Juan, Bicol director of Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), said the warning regarding the construction of high-rise buildings came from the recently done geo-hazard map of Naga City that showed instability in ground soil in the CBD here.

The DENR has plotted in Naga City's geo-hazard map large areas along and near the meandering Naga River and Bicol River that cut through the city to be in the categories of flood hazard, with susceptibility to liquefaction.

Liquefaction is the process by which solid ground softens during a geological event, like earthquakes.

Naga City also lies in the Bicol River Basin Area, the swath of plain in the region that straddles Albay province and the two Camarines provinces, where flooding is common.

According to the study, "Typhoon and Flood Hazard Mapping," which the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) sponsored in 2000, the city is within the area where periodic flooding occurs every five, 10 and 20 years.

The first periodic flooding happens every five years, with maximum rainfall of 223 mm in one day; the second one, every ten years with maximum rainfall of 300 mm in one day; and the last one, every 20 years with maximum rainfall of 400 mm in one day.

In the flood hazard map of Naga City, 80 percent of the CBD here is located in the high-risk zones for high-rise buildings, according to Ernesto Elcamel, the head of the Naga City Disaster Mitigation Project. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Opposition raised vs Bacolod diesel power plant

By Carla P. Gomez

PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Opposition has been raised against the planned activation of a diesel-fired power plant in Barangay Alijis here, particularly in the light of the pronouncements of the Department of Energy (DOE) that it intends to make Negros Island a model for renewable energy.

The Visayas For Renewable Energy (V-Free) vowed to lobby with the city council and some concerned national agencies for them to deny the necessary permits for the reopening of the plant, said Romana de los Reyes, V-Free spokesperson.

"This power plant should not be allowed because Negros is supposed to be a model for renewable energy development and utilization," she said.

Under the DOE's Renewable Energy Policy Framework, Negros Island is to be the model for renewable energy development and utilization in the country due to the presence of geothermal power plants on the island.

V-Free is a coalition of citizens' movements, people's organizations, non-government organizations, and professional groups from Leyte, Cebu, Samar, Panay, and Negros Islands.

Ed Guillem, president of the Central Negros Electric Cooperative (Ceneco), said Power One Corp. is leasing the old Ceneco diesel plant in Alijis that has a capacity of 9 to 10 megawatts.

There were no details yet on the lease agreement but Guillem said Ceneco decided to lease out the plant because it would cost the cooperative P30 million to P50 million to rehabilitate it.

He said Power One planned to rehabilitate the plant and operate it. Once the plant becomes operational, he added, Ceneco's need for additional power would be addressed.

Guillem added the task of getting the necessary permits to re-operate the diesel plant lies with Power One because Ceneco will only be leasing out the plant.

"It will be up to Power One to comply with the requirements needed to get an Environment Compliance Certificate," he said.

Farmers discover eagle family in Davao jungle

MATI, Davao Oriental—Upland farmers in Barangay Cabuaya here discovered an eagle family inside a forested area, an environment official said.

Emmanuel Isip, chief of the Protected Areas and Wildlife and Coastal Zones Management of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Southern Mindanao, broke the news on Tuesday morning during the opening of the Pujada Bay Festival here.

Isip said the eagle couple and their offspring were first "discovered" by the farmers almost three months ago.

He said the farmers saw a big bird gliding above the forest and grasping a large unidentified prey.

He said that apparently what the farmers saw was one of the parent eagles delivering a prey to an offspring.

"The father eagle is the one which looks for food to feed the partner and the offspring," Isip said.

He said when they were told about the presence of big birds, they immediately went to the area to verify.

"We saw the birds by using high-powered telescope. They nestled on a huge tree. They are Philippine eagles," Isip told the INQUIRER in a separate interview.

He said the nest and the chick, now about three months old, were also located.

"The eagles' presence highlighted Davao Oriental's status as a species-rich critical conservation area, holding the second highest record of Philippine eagle sightings among the research areas of the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF)," a PEF statement said.

Isip said the barangay council of Cabuaya has passed a resolution naming the father eagle as Cabu, the mother eagle as Aya and their chick, Cabuaya.

But while the people were ecstatic over the discovery, Isip sounded an alarm saying their existence was being threatened by mining explorations in the area.

"That's a big problem really because the eagles nest on the mine site. They will really be displaced if full-speed mining activities start in the area," Romy Torres, community environment and natural resources officer of this town, agreed.

Dennis Salvador, PEF executive director, said the Cabuaya barangay council had already passed a resolution protecting the nesting territory by preventing activities within a kilometer radius of it.

"Perhaps we will just ask the mining companies to spare the area where the eagles nestled because these critically endangered birds should not be disturbed," Torres said.

The Philippine eagle (Pithecophaga jefferyi), the world's largest bird of prey, was declared an endangered species in 1965 and declared as the country's national bird in 1995.

Today, there are only about 500 pairs of eagles remaining in the wild. *Ferdinand Zuasola with a report from Joselle Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Alarm up on Negros deforestation

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Negros Forest and Ecological Foundation Inc. chair Gerry Ledesma yesterday called on politicians and private citizens to support a stepped-up fight against illegal logging and wildlife poaching to prevent Negros Island, one of the world's ecological hot spots, from facing disastrous consequences.

He also urged politicians to elevate environmental protection in their list of political agendas.

Ledesma, at a press briefing that was part of the Provincial Environment Week celebration, said nearly all forests in Negros have vanished, many in recent years, due to illegal logging, leaving the island with 3 percent or only 24,000 hectares of forest cover.

He said the figure meant that only 8,000 hectares was left of the original 25,566-hectare forest cover at the Mt. Kanlaon Natural Park and only 16,000 hectares was left out of the 80,454 hectares that originally comprised the North Negros Forest Reserve.

"This is a crime against nature," he said, as he called on all sectors to help to reverse the appalling waste of valuable and scarce natural resources.

Ledesma said the Negros Occidental provincial government has been working hard to address environmental degradation but more support was needed especially from the public, media, non-government organizations and the corporate world.

Unless the dwindling forest cover of Negros Island is protected, Ledesma said people would witness many more disasters like the landslides and floods in Aurora province in December that killed over 1,600 people.

Ledesma said illegal logging is a "multimillion-peso crime" in Negros and he hoped those involved, particularly financiers and businessmen, would one day be brought to justice.

He cited police records that showed that 2.7 million board feet of lumber and timber, estimated to have a market value of P54 million, have been taken from the forest of Negros since 2002.

On the other hand, NFEFI and its teams of volunteers had been working hard for over 20 years to reforest hundreds of hectares of land and save endangered species, he said.

Ledesma said while NFEFI is proud of its reforestation achievements, much more are needed to be done.

He said more funding is needed to arrive at a "final forest line" and to provide viable economic activities for communities in the buffer zones.

He added that local government units would also need to rethink the zoning and land use plans of their upland areas because sugarcane is still being planted in areas best suited for trees and higher value crops.

Coco farmers form group to get funds from levy

DAVAO CITY—Coconut farmers are demanding the release of the coconut levy fund earnings to a farmers' fund they are setting up to develop and protect the country's ailing coconut industry.

Romulo Tapayan, secretary general of Kapisanan ng mga Magniniyog sa Pilipinas (Kampil), said that coconut farmers nationwide have started working to take back the earnings of the coco levy funds to serve as the seed fund for the Perpetual Coconut Farmers' Fund.

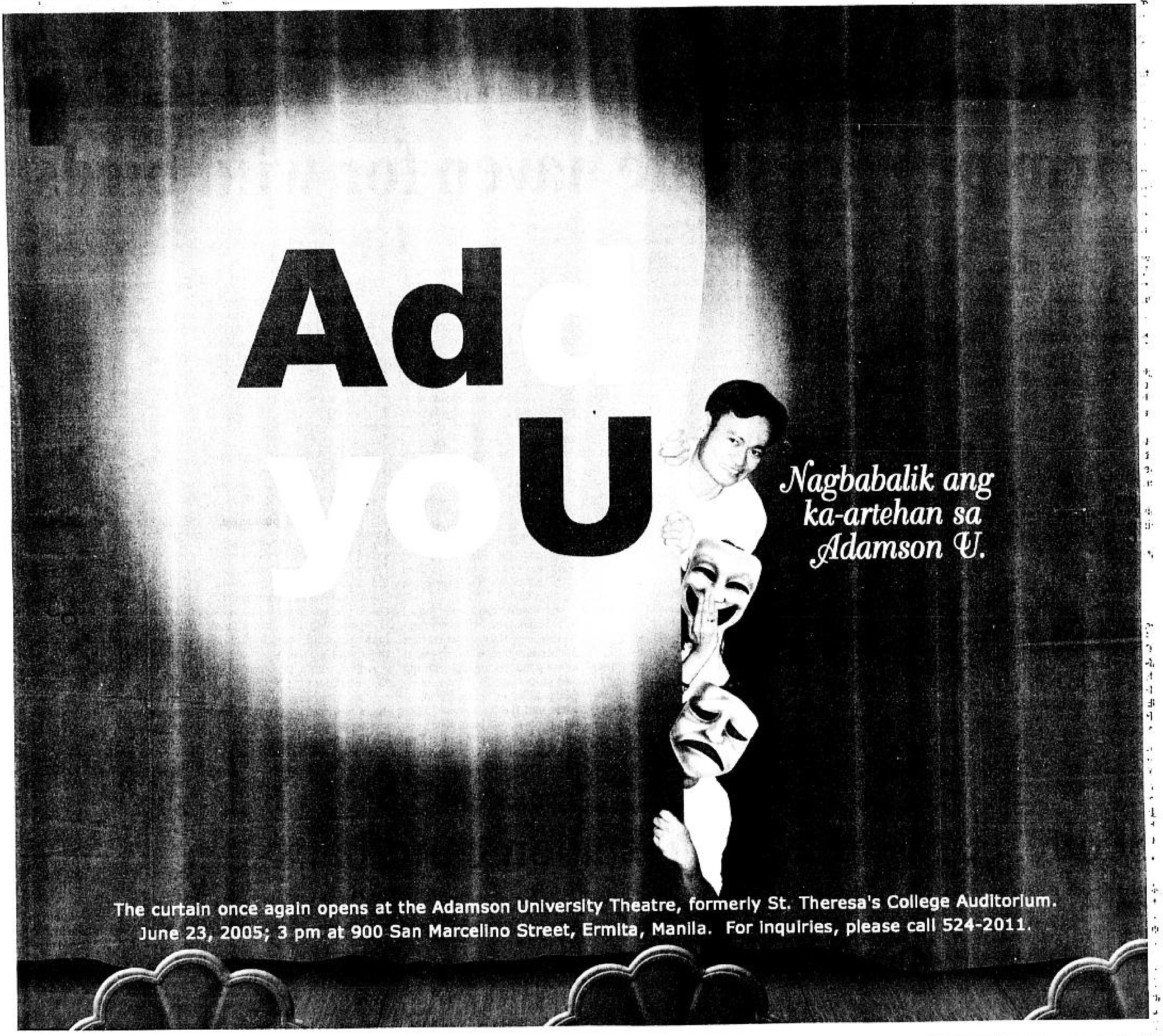
He said that in San Miguel Corp. (SMC) alone, coco levy funds made up 27 percent stake in shares of stocks.

Earlier, recent decisions by the Sandiganbayan and the Supreme Court confirmed the coconut farmers' ownership of the coco levy funds.

But Fructuoso Donayre, a coconut farmers group leader, said they have yet to receive the funds.

"Despite Danding Cojuangco's public declaration that the fund belongs to us, he is secretly blocking the transfer of the shares," Donayre said.

Mindanao coconut farmers recently gathered to demand the release of the fund and to set up the coconut trust fund committee to manage the levy fund and its earnings. *Germelina Lacorte, PDI Mindanao Bureau*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Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

BIRD watchers see these Philippine birds fly at the Mirant Pagbilao coal-fired power plant.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MIRANT PAGBILAO CORP.

Firm provides safe haven for wild birds

By Delfin Mallari Jr.
Lucena City

BIRD WATCHING for any nature tripper means observing wild birds in their own physical environment. But what if the exciting panorama of diverse bird species constantly appear not on their known habitat but inside the premises of a 735-megawatt coal-fired power plant, the Mirant Pagbilao Corp.?

Ricky de Castro, a member of the Wild Bird Club of the Philippines (WBCP), in his report the "Wild Birds of Pagbilao," wrote: "I recall the first time I visited the power plant some years back. I had the notion that energy-generating plants were places that emit deadly fumes, spill drums of toxic wastes and cover flora and fauna with industrial slime."

He said he had expected the "sight and stench of environmental death."

"What I found out negated a long-standing belief that there could be no compromise between development and conservation. The sight of birds and plant life in harmonious co-existence with the power plant was a revelation," he said.

De Castro said the noticeable presence of different wild birds inside the plant premises was the first scene that caught his attention during his first days in his job as program manager of Mirant Philippines Foundation.

"Wild ducks in their famous V-pattern flight formation, mixtures of birdcalls coming from surrounding trees, ducks paddling along the pond waters, all seemed to have become [so much a] part of the plant's natural setting that they no longer invite the interest of plant workers," he said.

Bird watchers

The vast and heavily secured Pagbilao power plant compound located in Isla Grande in Barangay Ibabang Polo in Pagbilao town, Quezon province, is in the middle of a once-dreary island inhabited mostly by part-time tillers and fishermen. It is about 150 km south of Metro Manila and faces the scenic Tayabas Bay.

De Castro said he has called the attention of fellow bird watchers in WBCP about his discovery.

Founded in July 2003, the WBCP promotes bird watching as a hobby and the responsible enjoyment of nature.

Mike Lu, WBCP founding member, recalled the club's first bird-watching escapade in Mirant in July last year.

"My first bird turned out to be a single Rufous Night Heron. It stayed for a few minutes and then decided to leave. Gradually, we saw the ducks on the ponds. Two full rainbows arched in the west with the flock of Philippine ducks under it. Everyone was in awe at the numbers," Lu said.

The group estimated that there were more than 400 ducks in all.

"Swallows and swiftlets flew circles around us while three Intermediate Egrets walked about in the ash pond. I noticed 13 waders standing silently on one side of the ash pond," Lu said in his recollection.

Some of the waders or the long-legged birds frequenting shorelines of bodies of water turned out to be an uncommon species of plover called Malaysian Plover.

Lu said the presence of birds inside the power plant premises indicates a sound and well-balanced biodiversity.

Rare birds

Environmentalist groups have long protested the operations of the coal-fired power plant on charges that it is harmful to humans and the environment.

But according to De Castro, to date, some 22 species of rare and some endemic birds have been spotted inside the Pagbilao power plant premises.

The most coveted sightings are those of ducks known as the Philippine Mallard, which can only be found in the country.

"Sightings of this species are getting scarce nowadays due to uncontrolled hunting and loss of habitat. The power plant is now host to at least one percent of the total global population of this type of bird," De Castro said in his report.

Before his discovery of the bird paradise inside Mirant, the power plant people had been receiving reports on the presence of wild birds in Pagbilao. "But they didn't know where the flock stayed. They never entertained the idea that the birds would choose a coal-fired power plant as home," he said.

He recalled that at first, Lu dismissed the reported sightings of Philippine ducks in the area as just plain "domesticated ducks."

He said the Pagbilao power plant was not the first coal-fired plant that played host to assorted flocks of birds.

De Castro cited the Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz power station in Kapar, Malaysia, where over 40 species of birds come to roost at its ash ponds during high tide and feed at low tide on the rich intertidal mudflats on nearby islands.

He said the Malaysian 2,200-megawatt power plant had been selected for inclusion in the East Asian-Australasian Shorebird Site Network, signifying its importance as a site for shorebirds.

He said the Pabilao power plant would target the same recognition. "We only need to submit the necessary documents to certifying organizations," he said.

Origin

When asked about the probable origin of the birds seeking refuge at the plant premises, Lu said most of the species could be considered migratory birds escaping the cold in other parts of the globe.

It was learned that most of the bird inhabitants reach their peak number during October and February.

"But for those birds who now consider the plant as home, they leave the plant before sunset and wander in the nearby areas in search of food. Before sunrise, they all return to the plant probably to escape the dangers outside posed by hunters. It's a routine for them," De Castro said.

In a basic introduction to the exciting world of bird watching, De Castro and Lu quietly led a couple of reporters on June 7 towards a thick ipil-ipil bush along one side of the power plant's airstrip.

Armed with a telescope, they showed reporters different birds perched atop the trees. A flock of ducks flew over the runway and landed in the ash ponds.

With his high-powered spotting scopes, Lu, occasionally turning the pages of his bird guide, noted that the birds were all over—Philippine ducks, Zebra dove, Crested Mynah, Cattle Egret, Pacific Swallow, and Rufous Night Heron, among many other birds.

Safer haven

"Most of these birds now consider the plant as a safe haven. They always return here and enjoy the security and harmony of the place," Mirant public affairs manager Greggy Romualdez, said.

Romualdez said the company plans to open the "bird sanctuary" to researchers.

Mirant officials said the preservation and protection of the environment has ever since been their priority. "Our paramount environmental objective is to be a good steward of the environment and to conduct our business in a manner contributing to sustainable development in the communities that we serve, ensuring that we meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the quality of life of the future generation," said the company brochure.

Mirant boasts of passing the ISO 14001 certification audit conducted by the Geneva-based Societe Generale de Surveillance Group for its environmental management system.

Mirant Pagbilao Corp. is a subsidiary of Mirant Philippines Corp. It is considered the largest private producer of electricity in the country, generating more than 2,000 MW nationwide.

Sequestered Albay radio station cannibalized

By Leo Martin B. Ganace
Legazpi City

BESIDE the main road of Barangay Bitano in Legazpi City, about 2 km east of Albay's capitol building, is a compound of dilapidated houses and rundown shops that peddle wares and services.

Surrounding shanties obscure the place. Only the concrete base that used to support the edifice of the once popular dwGW radio station of Banahaw Broadcasting Corp. (BBC) remains. The network, owned by Marcos crony Roberto Benedicto, has been sequestered by the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

The tower and equipment are all gone. Five weeks ago, seven men brought down the radio tower that had stood there for 24 years. The crime was recorded in the barangay blotter.

The station, or what was left of it, is now a showcase of a neglected government property.

"The tower used to stand there on the bog," said barangay councilor Nenita Atutubo, pointing to the site where it once stood a few meters from the main building.

The 5,000-watt transmission facility of dwGW, which began operations in 1981 under the BBC network, sent out signals that were then considered the widest in area coverage.

After the downfall of the Marcos regime in 1986, the station was sequestered by the PCGG.

A businessman leased the facility for some time and tried to operate it as an all-woman radio station called "Radyo ni Misis."

The venture was unsuccessful and the station was subsequently closed.

On May 14, the tower was dismantled by unidentified men, who brought the cannibalized parts to the old station building. The pieces were later moved elsewhere, residents said.

No action

No one has been charged even after the perpetrators pointed to a certain Sonny Brizuela, a real estate developer from Barangay Capantawan.

The INQUIRER repeatedly tried to contact Brizuela, but he was always unavailable, tending to his businesses in the locality.

But his close business associate, who requested anonymity, said Brizuela acted with the blessing of the city mayor's father, Nonong Rosal, after the latter allegedly commented that the old tower posed a hazard to the residents.

Brizuela's associate also provided the INQUIRER with rough estimates of how much the cannibalized pieces weighed.

"Some 200 kilos," he said, but was unable to provide details as to who benefited from the cannibalized pieces of the tower.

Legazpi City Mayor Noel Rosal's father, Nonong, denied involvement in the matter. He remembered having suggested to the city engineer to ask the caretaker of the radio station to do something about the tower as it posed danger to people.

He also denied involvement of the mayor in the case. He added that he even asked somebody to tell Barangay Bitano officials to blotter the theft of the tower parts when he learned about what happened.

The mayor has also categorically denied involvement.

As stated in the copy of the blotter obtained by the INQUIRER, Brizuela implicated the mayor and Vice Mayor Jess Rico Salazar.

Salazar also denied any involvement and even agreed to stand as witness against Brizuela should the PCGG decide to file a case.

Caretaker

A day after the incident, a certain Chito Contreras reportedly went to Atutubo's house and claimed responsibility for the tower's dismantling, according to the barangay official. Contreras, the husband of a former employee of the station, is known to many people in the community as the caretaker of the sequestered station.

Several years after the station closed down, Contreras reportedly began offering the sequestered compound for rent.

In a few months, houses and shops have sprouted in the area.

"We were not even notified of his plans about the compound, which lies in our barangay and is a property of the PCGG," Atutubo said.

She said she did not know who benefited from the rentals.

Barangay chair Rafael Goyena said Contreras was acting as caretaker by virtue of a power of attorney allegedly given by the general manager of the defunct station.

No caretaker

Alfredo de la Paz, PCGG Surrendered Assets Division head, however, said the PCGG had not appointed any caretaker for the "surrendered assets."

The PCGG official said the agency had instead appointed an official from the main office to supervise the property.

The Metro Manila-based PCGG official periodically inspects the property.

The last time PCGG representatives visited the government asset was sometime in March or April last year, De la Paz said.

The tower was still there.

After dwGW's closure, the P5-million building was abandoned.

But all the equipment are gone now, recent visitors said.

The broadcast center is now unrecognizable. About a year ago, it was rented out by Contreras to Brizuela, who put up a karaoke bar, according to occupants of business stalls in the area.

A portion of the building has been torn down to house a coconut lumber shop.

But De la Paz said the PCGG served an eviction notice to Contreras and other tenants of the property two years ago.

Asked about the barangay's plan on the situation, Goyena said he wanted the perpetrators prosecuted.

Contreras, who frequently changes addresses, according to residents, was still nowhere to be contacted.

As a result of this development, De la Paz said he had signed a mission order for PCGG personnel led by supervisor Linda Turingan to investigate the matter and conduct an updated inventory of the "surrendered assets."

Turingan said they planned to visit the property this week.

For now, the shops at the compound may continue business as usual, until everything is settled.

INQBOX
Win this *Inquirer mug
Question of the Week
Do you think that President Gloria Arroyo still has the credibility to lead our nation? Why or why not?
Senders of d best 20 texts as publishd in Tuesday's INQBOX wiL each receiv an *Inquirer Mug! Ü
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METRO

Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

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Baclaran vendors may soon find a roof over their wares

By Jocelyn R. Uy

ELENA sells religious items outside the National Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Baclaran, Parañaque City for a living.

But her means of livelihood could be in jeopardy once the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) finalizes its anti-illegal vendors campaign.

Elena, 30, has been selling candles, novena prayer booklets and rosaries in Baclaran for 21 years now. Sales from the religious items she sells in the sidewalks has enabled her to send her three children to school.

Although she admitted that she and her other companions sell their wares in a prohibited area, she said they have nowhere else to go.

"We are hoping that the MMDA finds space for us," she said. Elena said she hopes they could afford the lease, if they are given a place to set up their wares. But help may be on the way, with a promise from Parañaque Mayor Florencio Bernabe to help them find a solution to their woes.

Vendors in the perimeter of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Baclaran sell just about anything, especially on Wednesdays when it is novena day: cold water, *buko* juice, fake CDs and VCDs, cheap undergarments, blouses and pants, colorful umbrellas, fans and watches.

In October 2004, sidewalk vendors, including Elena, reclaimed the streets of Baclaran after the MMDA stopped its clearing operations. This move disappointed MMDA chair Bayani Fernando.

Bernabe told the INQUIRER the other day that he has yet to meet with MMDA officials who earlier announced that they would coordinate with the Parañaque City and Pasay City mayors in its campaign against illegal vendors.

But he said he would allow vendors to sell their wares in his city, on a regulated basis. Police deployed in the area would make sure the vendors would not go beyond the sidewalks, he added. Before the year ends, the vendors would move to a permanent place in a structure to be erected on a 4,000-square meter lot near the church, Bernabe said.

Archbishop Cruz on accuser: 'I told you so'

By Christian V. Esguerra

A GAY. A womanizer. An incorrigible gambler. A drug money collector. A "jueteng" payola beneficiary.

His enemies apparently working behind the scenes, Archbishop Oscar Cruz got this mix of unbelievable, if not outrageous, accusations and more from a man who also claimed to have been sexually abused by the crusading prelate.

Cruz, the man who singlehandedly revived the jueteng controversy now hounding the Arroyo administration, had earlier warned that his enemies' "dirty tricks" department would soon come out with outrageous accusations in trying to discredit him.

Jaime "James" Aquino, 37, with two unidentified male companions, yesterday went to the office of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines in Intramuros, Manila to file the complaints against Cruz.

Sensing a "kuryente" (bum steer), if not a well-funded hatchet job against Cruz, reporters threw a barrage of questions that visibly rattled Aquino.

Personal welcome

For one, Aquino failed to recognize Cruz who had walked towards him when he went to the CBCP to personally welcome his accuser. Aquino claimed that he had known the bishop when he was still 18. He began pointing to the archbishop only when Cruz went with him to a riotous press conference his handlers had hastily arranged at the CBCP media office.

Aquino, who said he was a reporter for the Journal Group of Publications, was also incoherent when Cruz began calmly asking about details of his supposed crimes and immoral acts. Aquino also accused Cruz of siring two children with a former girlfriend.

"The jueteng probe really unmasked many people," Cruz told reporters yesterday. "But this early, I forgive the people whose motive is something else but the truth."

In a 30-page complaint addressed to no less than Pope Benedict XVI, Aquino linked the bishop to jueteng, illegal drugs, and to a supposed destabilization plot against the Arroyo administration.

Waste of time

"I think my enemies are wasting their time," Cruz said, adding that he had never seen Aquino until yesterday. "Even if they destroy me, it's my witnesses who have been spilling the beans on the people behind jueteng."

Augusto Villanueva, editor in chief of the Journal publications, however, said that Aquino had ceased to be a correspondent of the People's Journal, People's Tonight and People's Taliba for almost two months now.

"The editors decided to drop him for writing a number of articles which were found to be baseless," Villanueva said in a statement. "One such article quoted a PNP official in Pangasinan on the alleged proliferation of jueteng in the province," he added.

"However, the PNP official denied the story and complained that he never met nor talked to Aquino. When confronted by the editors, including the undersigned, Aquino stuck to his story. But when he was ordered to write a clarification, he refused. This triggered his immediate dismissal," Villanueva said.

Cops blame director's family for snail-paced investigation

COLORS OF LIFE TOOTS SOBERANO
Fifty-six-year-old Robert peddles his oil paintings for P3,500 to P5,000 each, along J.P Rizal Street in Makati City. His works have helped send his children to school.

Santiago kin ask: Why blame us? How can we be a hindrance?

By Tarra V. Quismundo

POLICE have the alleged getaway vehicle. They have a first name and four family names as leads. And they have many witnesses to the incident.

But two weeks since television director Louis "Luigi" Santiago was killed in a shooting incident outside a bar in Makati City, frustration was all that police and the family of Santiago shared.

"The family would not cooperate with us," said Chief Inspector Manuel Santos Jr., Makati police Criminal Investigation Division director, explaining the apparent snail-paced investigation into the killing.

"We contacted them several times, but they would not help us. It would be proper for them to cooperate with us so we could quickly resolve the case," he added.

Santos said he reported the family's being "uncooperative" to National Capital Region Police Office chief Director Vidal Querol during a case conference at the Southern Police District yesterday morning.

Querol had asked Santos why the Makati police had been taking too long to solve the June 8 shooting outside V-Bar at the Ayala Center, where Santiago was killed and five other bar guests and a responding policeman were wounded.

But Santiago's family treated the excuse as more like a joke.

"My brother was killed. My father's son was killed. How could we be a hindrance?" said Santiago's younger brother Nicolo.

Nicolo said his family was not holding anything back from the police.

So far, the Makati police had begun verifying four surnames that may belong to a certain Oliver, the alleged gunman in the early morning shooting.

Police had also taken custody of a Toyota Hi-Lux which the shooter allegedly used to escape from the crime scene.

Expressing some frustration, Nicolo said members of his family had begun looking into the incident.

"We have asked people, who they should have already asked. It's not like we are doing our own investigation. It's just we feel the police are not doing enough," Nicolo told the INQUIRER in a phone interview yesterday.

Bent on giving justice to his brother's death, the younger Santiago said his family decided to ask V-bar guests and staff what they remembered about the shooting.

"It's very, very informal, just inquiring on our own, and anything we know, they should know," Nicolo said.

However, he said all they have gotten so far were rumors.

June 24 special day in Manila, San Juan

By Tina G. Santos
and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE CITY of Manila and San Juan town will don a festive air tomorrow when it celebrates two important occasions on its respective calendars.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has declared June 24 a special non-working holiday in Manila as the city marks the 434th Araw ng Maynila celebration. In San Juan, residents will mark June 24, the feast day of their patron saint St. John the Baptist, with a series of activities.

The Escolta Wharf in Manila was filled with people yesterday at the city's three-day food festival dubbed "Grill-ah in Manila!" Also yesterday night, City Hall presented classic Filipino movies in Manila's redeveloped plazas.

The celebration in San Juan began Saturday with a three-day sports festival. A free concert is scheduled tonight, which will end with an elaborate fireworks display. Tomorrow, a street dance contest will start at 7 a.m. followed by a parade of floats.

Cager Crisano faces more raps

By DJ Yap

A HOUSEMAID has filed a complaint in the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office against former Philippine Basketball Association basketball player Alex Crisano yesterday, accusing him of making inappropriate advances.

The 19-year-old complainant alleged that Crisano had fondled his private parts in front of her while she was massaging him in his room on June 15.

Crisano, who last played for the Ginebra Kings, denied the charges, saying the housemaid could be trying to get back at him because she had been fired for allegedly hurting his two children aged five and three.

The complainant narrated that at about 3 p.m. on June 15, Crisano had asked her to give him a massage in his room.

While she was massaging him, Crisano allegedly took of his clothes and began fondling himself. The maid said she then got up and tried to leave.

But Crisano allegedly swore at her and grabbed her private parts. Crisano's other maid, Erlita Baldimiro, reportedly entered the room and saw them, she said.

The maid, who works for a placement agency, said she was supposed to look after the sister of Crisano's girlfriend, comedienne Ethel Booba. Instead, she was sent to Crisano's house where she worked for two months, the maid said.

In a TV interview, Ethel said she did not believe the maid's accusation. The comedienne also confirmed that the maid was no longer working in the Crisano household.

In April, the basketball player also figured in a controversy when his gun was allegedly stolen by a vendor of pirated DVDs. Police later found out that Crisano had no permit-to-carry the gun and charged him with illegal possession of firearms.

Cardinal Sin, hero or villain?

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

THE HERO or villain, depending on how you see Jaime Cardinal Sin, is dead.

Sin gathered the crowds at Edsa in People Power I and II. Whether he was right or wrong in doing so, only time will tell.

To people who agreed with him, Sin was a saintly crusader. But to his critics, he was an interloper or the modern Padre Damaso. Whether you liked him or hated him, Cardinal Sin already has a place in our history.

* * *

Sin criticized government officials for leading immoral lives. He particularly hit hard ousted President Erap who flaunted his women.

But the good cardinal forgot to clean up his own backyard first. At least three bishops under him had kept women or were exposed for having illicit affairs.

* * *

I'll never forget the martial law joke about the Marcos couple that involved Cardinal Sin, who had a terrific sense of humor.

Sin, so the joke went, was rushed personally by President and Mrs. Marcos to a hospital in their limousine after he had a stroke during dinner with them at the Palace.

When Sin thought he would not make it, he looked up to heaven and said: "Lord Jesus, thank you for making me die like you—in the middle of two thieves."

* * *

Speaking of jokes, if President Macapagal-Arroyo doesn't radically turn around the economy such that the citizenry would immediately benefit from it, the jokes going around might lead to her downfall.

True, there's no competent leader from the opposition that can replace her at the moment. But such a leader might emerge from the shadows if those jokes would continue.

Jokes that flew hither and thither preceded the ouster of Presidents Marcos and Erap. The jokes were sent by word of mouth during the Marcos years as text messaging was still years in the future. Jokes flooded the text message system during Erap's time.

Why did the jokes lead to the downfall of both Marcos and Erap? They were a sign of disrespect for their persons and their office. Since there was no longer respect for the two leaders, people decided to kick them out of office.

* * *

If I were GMA I would bring down the cost of medicines so the poor and people from the lower middle class would benefit.

Thousands of patients are dying of sickness in and out of hospitals because they can't afford the high cost of medicines.

How does the government bring down the cost of medicines?

By importing raw materials for basic medicines from India and other countries where medicines are cheap.

If small pharmaceutical companies are allowed to import the raw materials for medicines, they'll be able to manufacture low-cost medicines.

Multinational drug firms and a drugstore chain have a monopoly on the sale and manufacture of basic medicines. They dictate the price of medicines.

What are the basic medicines? Those for asthma, hypertension, tuberculosis, diabetes, fever, diarrhea.

Pasig gives, takes back permit for Lanot rally

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

IT WAS "yes" for Arroyo but "no" for Lanot.

Pasig City Mayor Vicente Eusebio quickly canceled a rally permit issued for a "thanksgiving Mass" when he found out that it would be used by supporters of slain Rep. Henry Lanot.

He said the city government was "deceived" when it approved the event to be held on Saturday at the Plaza Rizal.

In their application for a permit to use the plaza, the August 13 Movement (ATM), through Pasig Bishop Francisco San Diego, told the city government that it would hold a "thanksgiving Mass" for President Macapagal-Arroyo for "successfully [surviving] threats (to her administration)."

ATM, named after the date when Lanot was gunned down inside a Pasig City restaurant, was supposed to be publicly launched at the event.

However, when Eusebio read a pamphlet inviting people to the rally, he immediately canceled the permit.

"They are liars. They made fools out of us. They even used Bishop San Diego," Eusebio said, referring to Lanot's group.

In the pamphlet printed in Filipino, the group said "truth and justice has disappeared in the city since 1992" and that the assassination of Lanot should be a "wake-up call for the people of Pasig."

"This is the right time for us to unite and bring back peace, order, truth and justice (in the city)," the pamphlet added.

Members of the group denounced the cancellation as political harassment.

The ATM will be an umbrella of organizations of Lanot's supporters and sympathizers, his eldest son Ken said.

Lanot ran for mayor in 2004 but lost to Eusebio. But he protested Eusebio's victory, alleging massive vote-buying and early campaigning.

He was killed before the case could be resolved. His supporters and allies said the assassination was "politically motivated."

In a letter to San Diego yesterday, the mayor said "clearly, the Mass is not for peace but [would be for] inciting Pasigueños to rebel against its own."

Puerto Princesa City celebrates

15th Pista Y Ang Cagueban

(Feast of the Forest, June 25)

OVER 1.5 MILLION TREES PLANTED

> *"Just as I do not violate my own home, so must I not violate my environment. Instead, I can only preserve, protect or restore it to life because I have embraced it as my own."*
>
> *- Mayor Edward S. Hagedorn*

> *The environment has done to man what man has done to society and what society has done to the environment. There is a cosmic connectedness which we all partake, a oneness with the galaxies, with the forests and with the oceans. We cannot live in isolation from nature and from our fellow human beings. Just as we are governed by laws made by man, nature likewise promulgates her own laws for us.*
>
> - Anonymous

"Grow A Tree, Shelter Our Future"

Now on its 15th year. Puerto Princesa City's unique Pista Y ang Cagueban (Feast of the Forest) has successfully replanted a total of 132 hectares of denuded forest land in the city's two major watersheds in Irawan and Sitio Megarwak, Barangay. Sta. Lourdes.

Pista Y ang Cagueban was conceptualized by the Development Communication, Training and Community Mobilization Department of the defunct Palawan Integrated Area Development Project Office (PIADPO) in 1991 to highlight the urgency of promoting environmental protection and conservation among the citizenry, especially to the youth. Irawan Watershed . the primary source of potable water in the city, was chosen as the primary reforestation site.

The first Pista Y ang Cagueban was held on June 1991. the same year the United Nations declared the month of June as Environment Month and the Strategic Environmental Plan for Palawan (R.A. 7611) was enacted. The first two years of Pista Y ang Cagueban saw the success of actively involving the youth in promoting the value and importance of environmental protection.

In 1993. the City Government of Puerto Princesa under the helm of Mayor Edward S. Hagedorn took over the annual preparation and celebration of Pista Y ang Cagueban giving it more color, excitement and wider participation -- from the grassroots level to businessmen, church leaders and even local and foreign tourists.

Under the leadership of Mayor Hagedorn and his unwaveri[illegible] for environmental protection, Pista Y ang Cagueban was transfor[illegible] its usual fiesta mode into an exciting, meaningful annual event that showcased the evolution of a new consciousness towards protecting and conserving nature that has been successfully translated into an active commitment among its people.

The past 15 years of caring for the environment has since become a way of life for every Puerto Princesan, regardless of age, creed, profession or status in life. The Pista has been institutionalized in every barangay and established linkages with the different sectors to gain grassroots support. Today, every Puerto Princesan, especially the youth who are at the forefront of the Pista, are proud of the quality of life that they had been able to develop and nurture for future generations to enjoy.

The unique and pioneering "Feast of the Forest" became an annual event that has since expanded its scope and activities. Since 1991 to 1999, more than 132 hectares of forest cover has been rehabilitated in Irawan. More than 1 million indigenous trees such as Narra, Ipil and Mahogany were planted in the area with a survival rate of more than 80%.

Among its notable features every year. are open air concerts reminiscent of the famous Woodstock concerts showcasing live performances of environment-conscious artists and bands like Yano, Lolita Carbon, Joey Ayala, Bayang Barrios, Grace Nono, Sinica, a local indigenous band, among others, and other local talents added excitement and entertainment to the Pista every year.

In year 2000. to meet the need to develop other sources of water and having successfully rehabilitated target areas in the watershed of Irawan, the Pista transferred to Sitio Magarwak. Bgy. Sta. Lourdes.

The tree planting in Magarwak was likewise successful, rehabilitating an area of more than 85 hectares with more than 1.5 million trees planted.

This year. Pista returns to Irawan Watershed to rehabilitate 30 hectares of denuded forest land with a target 100,000 seedlings planted.

After a successful run of 15 years, Puerto Princesa City again looks forward to another 15 years, millions of new trees planted in denuded areas, protected water supply sources and a stronger, more dynamic and responsible people committed to protect and sustain the environment. All because it is a way of life.

Mayor Ed Hagedorn inspects the fruits of labor of the very first Pista Y ang Cagueban in Bgy. Irawan.

Mayor Hagedorn talks with tribesmen. Protecting the forests they consider home also means protecting the cultural minority.

Movie actor Roy Alvarez, DZRH Anchor Deo Macalma, Mayor Ed Hagedorn, Rep. Baham Mitra and First Lady Ellen Hagedorn take a breather after planting their share of seedlings in Irawan.

Keeping the forest green. A part of the more than 130 hectares rehabilitated by Pista in Bgy. Irawan.

Vice Mayor Cecil Bayron leads City Council members in the reforestation effort.

Running Priest Father Robert Reyes leads the Fun Run as part of festivities during the Pista.

Participants listen to the message of Mayor Hagedorn during opening rites at Irawan Watershed.

Youth participants

Palawan's Indigenous Tribes Speak Out

TAGBANUA

Kat musa it taga sitot Puerto Princesa, Kat banuat Palawan, baw kadat sector sitot aten, Kat Bgy. Irawan, Kat mga bisita.

Yan dakula baw makatuturunang pista't Cagueban nga nagumpisa it taon 1992, Makabugay it dakulang parti at among mgaTagbanua sistot Irawan dagga lamang sitot, in dagga kat musang taga Puerto Princesa kat pangunguna ni Mayor Edward S. Hagedorn.

Nga yen pagluwak it mga kayo, isang buwat nga liyen landaw nat subong namen, Ka kami magepet it baw mag galang it buwat it diwata, nga siyoble namen it mga inapo.

Baw dakulang epektibo, ka yan unang mga nakaluwak dadakula na, Na pirme it gayen mga bukid, Malegaw na danom, sakat sare, baw makasaysayang mga manomanok. Nga subong it mga tribu nga pagkilalanen it gobyerno.

Dakel nga salamat, Ma^Gen taming musa.

BATAK

Dakulang pasasalamat ki Mangindosa nga nagbegay kat ameng mga tribung Batak it puon nga si Mayor Edward S. Hagedorn para ipauli ey mga pu'ot ka'u nga naelang kat talon it pati belag pang mga pakailanganen kat aldaw aldaw nga buay ta, landaw na yat epagkab aro nga mga ka'u. ay pa..... Tami na! Manluwak pa!

" Nagpapasalamat kami sa Diyos na nagbigay ng isang pinuno na katulad ni Mayor Edward S. Hagedorn para ipanumbalik ang mga nawalang punong kahoy sa kagubatan ng Puerto Princesa na siyang pinagkukunan ng mga pagkain at iba pang pangangailangan sa pang araw-araw sa aming mga buhay, lalong-lalo na ang mga gamot na mula sa kahoy. Kaya... Tayo na! Magtanim pa!

Primo S. Loreno
Pangulo
City Tribal Foundation of Puerto Princesa Inc.

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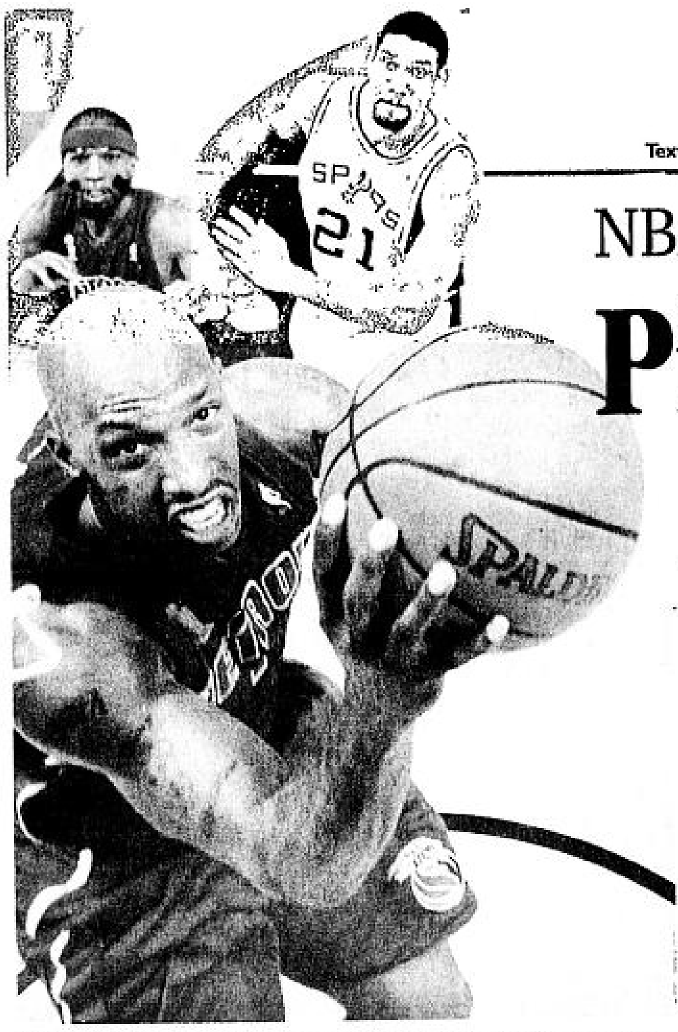
SPORTS

Text us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres



PISTONS' Chauncey Billups goes to the hoop as Richard Hamilton (left) and Spurs' Tim Duncan watch during Game 6. AP

NBA FINALS

Pistons force do-or-die

SAN ANTONIO—As they have so many times before, the Detroit Pistons fought off elimination once again in Game Six of the NBA Finals on Tuesday.

Richard Hamilton scored 23 points and Chauncey Billups added 21 as the defending NBA champions forced a Game Seven in the championship series with a 95-86 win over the San Antonio Spurs.

Detroit is a remarkable 5-0 in games where facing playoff elimination in the past two years and the Pistons will face a sixth must-win game when the series wraps up at the SBC Center Thursday.

This year's Finals are the first since 1994 to require a full quota of games, a surprise for many as the Pistons had lost their last 10 contests in San Antonio heading into Game Six, including two lopsided defeats in the opening two games of this series.

NBA champions in 1999 and 2003, the Spurs were also 46-5 in all games at home this season before the Pistons added an extra number to the loss column.

"I've been with these guys for two years and they don't disappoint me in terms of their desire to win and their respect for each other," Detroit coach Larry Brown said after earning his 100th career playoff win.

"This is what our team is about. We out ourselves in that position (facing elimination) and we don't give ourselves any other choice but to come out and compete as hard as we can."

The Pistons did that on Tuesday, taking the game away from the Spurs in the final quarter, and once again showing the remarkable resilience they have displayed in the past two post-seasons.

"We're as tough as nails," Billups said. "We always make it tough on ourselves but we find a way to get out of that fox-hole."

It was a dramatic game, which featured 23 lead changes and seven ties in the first three quarters.

However, Detroit edged 71-67 ahead with a quarter remaining and never surrendered the lead again, although the Spurs did get to within one point.

"That's why they're the NBA champs, you expect them to do that," San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said.

To repeat as champions and deny the Spurs a home-court celebration of their third NBA title in seven years, Detroit will have to do something that no team has ever done—win the last two games of the Finals series on the road after trailing 3-2.

A sign in the Pistons locker room read 'San Antonio's parade is scheduled for Thursday!' and that seemed to invigorate the already motivated Pistons even more.

"We can fight any odds," Rasheed Wallace said.

"You know, a lot of people thought we were going to be out tonight, but—they had their crystal ready and all that stuff, but—hey, we're going to pop it Thursday."

As for the Spurs, they just feel they can still get it done on their home court with another chance.

"You play all year for a Game Seven at home," Tim Duncan, who had 21 points and 15 rebounds, said.

"We just have to come in here on Thursday and get it done." *Reuters*

SPALDING®

	2005 NBA FINALS	
86	GAME 6	95
3	STANDING	3

EXCLUSIVE DISTRIBUTOR:
PROLINE SPORTS CENTER

Barako rally from 21 down, nip Beermen to level series

By June Navarro

GAMES TOMORROW (*Cuneta Astrodome*)
(Game 3 best-of-five semifinal series)
4:45 p.m.—Shell vs Talk N Text
7:35 p.m.—Red Bull Barako vs San Miguel Beer

NELSON Asaytono's three-point play keyed Red Bull's rise from the grave as the Barako repulsed the San Miguel Beermen, 79-77, last night to even up their Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference semifinal series at the Araneta Coliseum.

Asaytono got a feed from Earl Barron at the baseline and completed a three-point play off Nic Belasco as Red Bull finally took the lead at 78-77 after trailing by as many as 21 points, 58-37, in the third quarter.

The Beermen had the chance to reverse the outcome twice, but Dondon Hontiveros fumbled on a drive while Chris Burgess missing a game-winning triple at the buzzer.

"I don't know how many of these we can pull off," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao more than a week after the Barako overhauled a 27-point deficit to eliminate defending champion Barangay Ginebra in the wildcard phase.

"But I don't want to be in tight situations in the future because sooner or later, our luck will definitely run out," added Guiao.

The Barako actually blew three of four free throws in the closing seconds but luck was with them as they tied the best-of-five series at 1-1.

Trailing 58-37 following a technical foul on Junthy Valenzuela, the Barako worked their way up with Earl Barron, Cyrus Baguio, Jimwell Torion and even the 7-foot EJ Feihl carrying the scoring load.

The Barako chopped the deficit into half at the end of the third, 61-50, and as Hontiveros and Olsen Racela began sniping from afar, they started holding down San Miguel's shooters while aggressively attacking the basket through fast-break plays.

"We just experimented on a lot of things tonight and the gamble paid off," said Guiao. "We did things that we're not used to doing in the past."

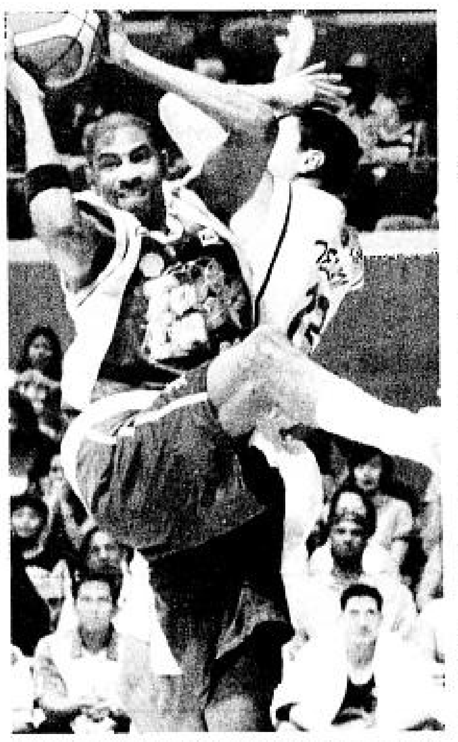
Meanwhile, Talk N' Text lawyer Ray Espinosa yesterday bared that the Bureau of Immigration and the Department of Justice have given Paul Asi Taulava the go signal to resume playing with TnT.

The scores:

RED BULL 79—Barron 27, Tugade 15, Bagulo 6, Torion 8, Villanueva 6, Valenzuela 5, Feihl 4, Asaytono 3, Gahol 3, Ybanez 0, Robinson 0, Meneses 0.

SAN MIGUEL 77—Burgess 21, Hontiveros 19, Belasco 9, Racela 8, Pena 8, Ildefonso 7, Lopez 5, Adriano 0.

Quarters: 14-19, 28-39, 50-61, 79-77.



ADJANI Williams of Shell (left) outrebounds Mark Telan in their game last night. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Alvarez leads rookie derby

HERE'S bad news for James Yap, Purefoods controversial swingman.

Shell's Rich Alvarez, Yap's main rival, emerged as pacesetter in the heated statistical race for the 2005 PBA Rookie of the Year award.

The PBA statistical office headed by Fidel Mangonon recently released the top 10 candidates for the ROY which is given annually by the pro league.

Included in the stats were the numbers piled up by Alvarez during the 2004 Philippine Cup, 2004 Fiesta Conference and the ongoing Gran Matador Fiesta Conference.

With the 6-foot-3 former two-time UAAP MVP doing heavy damage, the Turbochargers beat the Hotdogs in the best-of-three series for a place in the semifinals.

Known for his all-around plays, Alvarez has a league-leading 1113 statistical points among rookies with Yap in second spot with 928. Third placer is Alaska's Joachim Thoss (849); Purefoods' Paul Artadi (706); and Ranidel de Ocampo (688) of FedEx.

"Rich's a coaching delight," said Shell coach Leo Austria, a former PBA rookie of the year awardee.

In the MVP race, Mark Caguioa of Bgy. Ginebra is leading the field over teammate Erik Menk. But Menk may not make it due to questions on his citizenship.

In hot pursuit is Willie Miller of Talk N' Text with 1764 statistical points. Caguioa piled 1882, followed by Menk with 1824 points.

Aside from statistics, voting from players, the media, and the Commissioner's Office will be used to determine the MVP and ROY who will be feted during the finals of the ongoing Fiesta Conference. *Dennis Eroa*

Lito cautions Buddy on his ties with PBF

PHILIPPINE Basketball Association board member Lito Alvarez of Air 21, which owns the FedEx Express franchise, cautioned league chair Buddy Encarnado on his involvement with the PBF as the board has yet to tackle the matter in its regular board meeting set Monday, June 27.

Encarnado, however, explained that he will be presiding over the said election today on his "own personal capacity."

Alvarez stressed that as discussed with chair Encarnado and commissioner Noli Eala, the PBA board still recognizes the MOA with the BAP and intends to keep it binding as long as the Fiba recognizes the BAP as the sole governing body for basketball in the Philippines.

"I'm just reminding Mr. Encarnado because it could be a big deal and he may be questioned by the Board on the premise that he could be preempting the board decision," Alvarez explained.

With the MOA, the PBA will continue the lead task in the formation of the national team in such major international events like the Jones Cup and the Fiba-Asia Championship.

The PBF plans to take over as the governing body for basketball in the country after the BAP was suspended by the Philippine Olympic Committee.

Officials of the Philippine Basketball League, the UAAP, NCAA and other amateur groups are behind the formation of the PBF.

New cage body election today

THE NEW cage body set to take over the suspended Basketball Association of the Philippines will hold its election of officers today with former PBA coach Chito Narvasa as the strongest candidate for the presidency.

The election is set at Narvasa's office at the Tektite Towers in Pasig at 3 p.m.

The new body will go by the name of the Philippine Basketball Federation Inc. Its constitution and by-laws were drafted by a special committee shortly after the suspension of the BAP by the Philippine Olympic Committee.

All the major stakeholders in the sport, including the professional PBA and collegiate leagues UAAP and NCAA, will be represented. The Philippine Basketball League and the Milo BEST Center will also be there.

Romasanta, the spokesperson of POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, answered text messages from the INQUIRER and said that he is not a candidate, while Narvasa said that "everyone in the group is capable."

"Never *akong nag-ambisyon ng ganyan*," Narvasa said over the phone. "*Pero kung gusto nila ako* (I did not aspire for the position but if they want me) I will make myself available."

Despite the POC suspension, the BAP was able to send a national team coached by Raymund Celis to the 21st Fiba-Asia women's basketball championship in China. *Musong R. Castillo*

Gabito grabs gold in Singapore meet

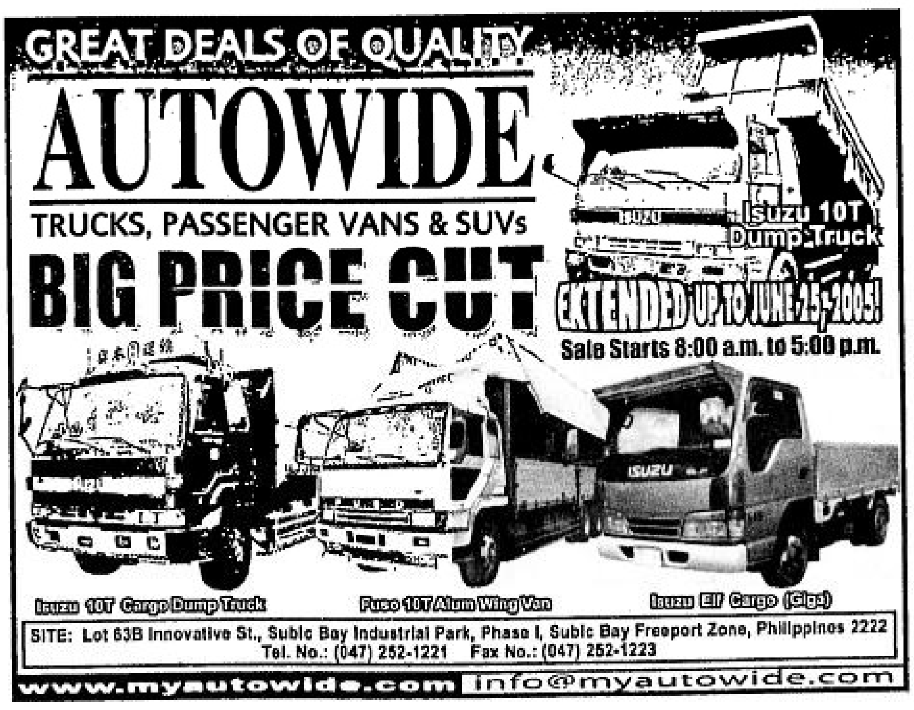
GABITO

LERMA Bulauitan-Gabito took over as women's long jump champion in the second leg of the Asian Athletics Grand Prix in Singapore even as Henry Dagmil settled for the bronze in the men's long jump recently.

Bulauitan - Gabito cleared 6.52 meters to win the same event fellow Filipina Marestella Torres dominated in the first leg in Surabaya, Indonesia. Torres was third this time with a jump of 6.45 behind an Uzbek bet, who did 6.46.

Dagmil surpassed his 7.65-meter effort in Indonesia that was good for a silver but his 7.75 performance gave him just the bronze medal behind the Indian gold winner (7.99) and the Chinese runner-up (7.83).

The RP team's stint was supported by the First Gentleman Foundation, Pagcor and San Miguel Corp. *Marc Anthony Reyes*



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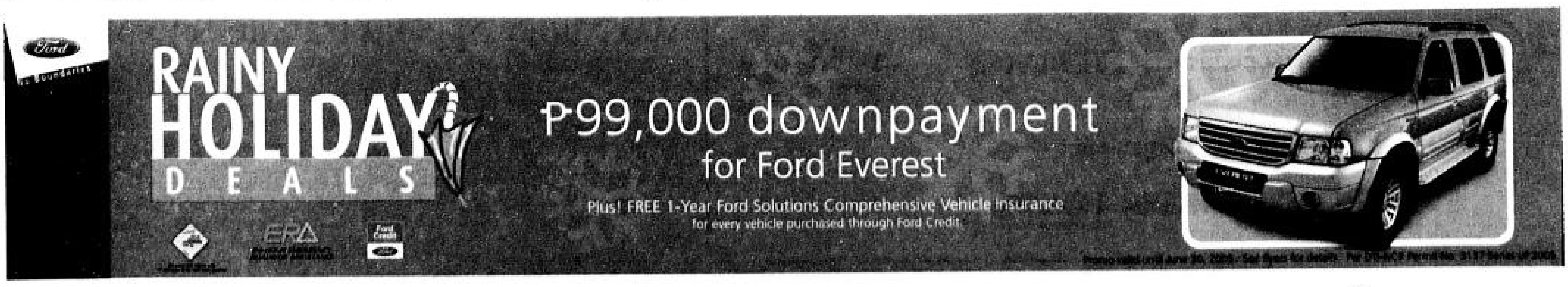

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La Union City, Sorsogon boxers clash today

A DUAL meet pitting La Union City against Sorsogon City will be the main offering of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines' "Touch Mobile Go for Gold" which goes to Lian, Batangas, today. The program, to be hosted by Rep. Eileen E. Buhain and Pugal Lawin chapter president Jojo Villadolid, will also feature six special bouts among members of the RP boxing team, now in deep preparation for the Manila Southeast Asian Games. The event is aired on NBN 4 from 7-8:30 p.m. every Saturday.

Lomibao no longer keen on SEAG stint

By Musong R. Castillo

REIGNING Philippine women's champion Sherrie Joy Lomibao is seriously contemplating on withdrawing from the national chess team to the Southeast Asian Games in the aftermath of the controversies rocking the sport's governing body.

"I don't want to be part of any trouble," the 25-year-old Lomibao said in Filipino. "And I hope that they give me what is due me."

A three-time Olympiad veteran and winner of a bronze medal in the Vietnam SEAG two years ago, Lomibao won the National Open in Tagaytay a couple of weeks back and is trying to claim the P30,000 first prize money the NCFP had promised to put up earlier for the event.

Chess president Go Teng Kok withdrew the prize pot of P107,000 at the 11th hour and has instead promised a lucrative allowance scheme to put out the fire in the association.

"I should be focused on my training at this time," Lomibao added. "But because of what happened, I cannot concentrate. They (NCFP leaders) are not running the affairs right.

"They are running a dictatorial leadership and they are putting us down."

Under the allowance scheme of Go, each of the top five finishers in the Open will receive a stipend of P500 a day until the end of the SEAG in December on top of the P7,000 a month they are entitled from the Philippine Sports Commission as national athletes.

Pep rally ushers in Ateneo-DLS tiff

ARCH RIVALS Ateneo and La Salle takes a breather from their hectic practice schedule to participate in the Pep Rally activity, the kick-off event of the reunion basketball game next month, on June 25 at the Jills Restaurant in Bonifacio Global City in Taguig.

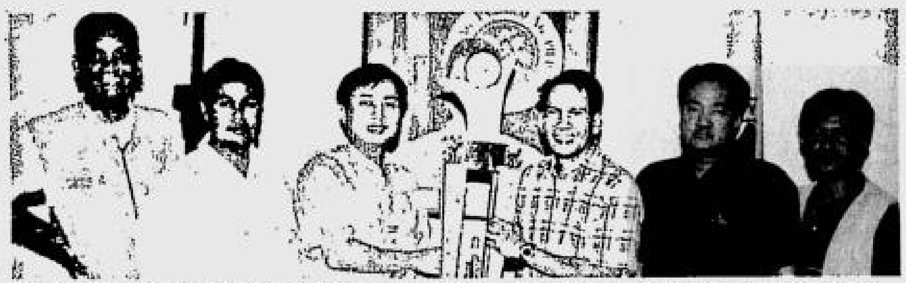
The event opens festivities for the Fil Oil/Flying V Ultimate Showdown: Ateneo-La Salle Basketball Classic slated at the Araneta Colisuem on July 2 and will be aired live on ABS-CBN's Studio 23.

More than 80 alumni cage greats representing legend and all-star players of the Eagles and Archers, led by coaches Chito Narvasa and Fritz Gaston and the Archers' mentors Joaqui Trillo and Franz Pumaren, will be present during the affair, according to tournament chair David Dualan.

Some of the activities lined up for the event are the free throw accuracy contest, three-point shootout and two-ball competition.

The Blue Babble Battalion of Ateneo and Pep Squad of La Salle will battle for supremacy for the best cheering group.

La Salle Batch '84, in cooperation with Ateneo Batch '82 and Pure Play Sports Management, is organizing this one-day event together with Accel, Kublai's Restaurant, Millenium Plans, Bank of Commerce, Gerry's Grill, Inihaw Circle, Pepsi, Sunbolt and IO KTV.



CHESS CHAMPS: The Tagaytay City Chess Team with Tagaytay Mayor Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino after winning the 2005 National Chess Team Championship in Iligan City. From left: Edmundo Gatus, NCFP project director Willie Abalos, Mayor Tolentino, GM Joey Antonio, Rodolfo Panopio and Lito Abril.

'Tough as nails'

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

THE DETROIT Pistons won Game 6 yesterday because they refused to lose. The hardest to defeat are those of the mean type. Like the Pistons.

While others give up the ghost so easily when confronted with debilitating intimidation and gut-grinding pressure, the Pistons are of a different breed.

Yes, Detroit, under coach Larry Brown, has relived an era.

Weren't the Pistons the toast nearly two decades back?

"We can beat any odds, you know," said Chauncy Billups, the Pistons' captain. "We are tough as nails."

Whereas I'm no Piston picker before, I seem to be one now and so, I can believe Billups.

Like the Vietcongs, the Pistons have also proven the most unyielding of warriors.

Like Miriam Defensor Santiago, Detroit also takes threats thrown its way for breakfast.

Like Tiger Woods, the Detroit Pistons are also driven, demon-possessed if you will, just to get there first.

In short, the Pistons seem to always thrive on danger, as they did against Miami and New Jersey in this season's Eastern playoffs.

Facing elimination both times, the Pistons pulled it out of the fire, squeezing through the eye of a needle to get the chance to become repeat NBA champions since the Los Angeles Lakers from 2000-2002.

I am no fan of the Pistons after the NBA era of Isiah Thomas and Joe Dumars and coach Chuck Daly ended in the '80s.

But after embarrassing the Lakers to win the NBA crown last year, my view of Detroit changed—drastically, I must say.

In any game anytime, Detroit can crush you.

Even with their backs against the wall, the Pistons can find the foxhole.

Amid shame, they can retake the spotlight.

"I'm still kicking myself," said Rasheed Wallace, referring to what he said was his bonehead move Monday of leaving Robert Horry alone on the wing. Horry hit the three to give San Antonio a 96-95 overtime win in Game 5.

Resolving to atone for that, Wallace dunked and dealt San Antonio some vicious defensive gems in the stretch, effectively defusing a Spurs rally ignited briefly by a Tim Duncan drive that cut Detroit's lead to 87-86, 2:22 to go.

There were 23 lead changes and 7 ties, but once Detroit got its machine revved up, the Pistons were unstoppable.

They had 19 assists to begin with, proof of their superb ball control.

Aided by their typical stifling defense, the Pistons forced San Antonio to 12 turnovers—mostly behind the suffocating guarding of Wallace.

Not only in defense but also in offense did Wallace prove Game 6 was his.

His body heavily tattooed, Wallace tattooed the Spurs with 7 points in the pivotal fourth quarter when San Antonio had threatened to snuff out a Piston hum.

He even had a pair of 2 surprise three-pointers on top of two turnover-producing defense against Manu Ginobili in the homestretch, which all but put Detroit on the brink of another NBA title.

"It was commendable of Larry (Brown) not to put the blame on me for leaving Horry alone," said Wallace, whose tip-in via a one-handed, tomahawk dunk in the fourth almost brought the house down yesterday. "But I am a man. I should be man enough to take the rap."

Richard Hamilton fired 23 and Billups 21 and, together with Wallace's 16, helped Larry Brown score his 100th NBA playoff win as a coach.

The Game 7 tomorrow will be the first after 11 years and, surely, the game will yet be another test of Detroit's now-fabled resiliency.

Its vulnerability not a myth anymore, Detroit can become the first to capture an NBA crown by winning games 6 and 7 on the road.

The Houston Rockets beat the New York Knicks in games 6 and 7 at home when they won the 1994 NBA championship.

Yesterday's setback was already a bitter pill to swallow. Another loss tomorrow would redound to an ignominy San Antonio will never ever recover from for a long, long time. Only a win can mend the home crowd's broken heart.

But to win, the Spurs must recover their shots from afar.

Hitting a total of 36 treys against only 8 by Detroit before Game 6, San Antonio groped from beyond the arc yesterday. In contrast, the Pistons had 5 triples in the first half alone.

Likewise, to win, the Spurs must deliver at the stripe, where they did 7-of-19 yesterday. That's 12 points down the drain.

If one unmolested can't shoot, who else will?

NCA Super Special transfers to Makati

THE NATIONAL Cockers Association (NCA) "Super Special 6-Cock Derby" will be staged today at the fully air-conditioned Makati Coliseum.

The NCA central committee and Winning Time Jobo Sports and Gaming Corp., operator of Makati Coliseum, agreed to hold the super event that will feature 78 fights beginning at 4 p.m.

Bannering the Team Sagupaan GCAP is *sabong* idol Patrick Antonio and his partners Gov. Chavit Singson, Gov. Tony Kho of Masbate, Pol Estrellado, Benjie Lim, Representatives Butch Pichay and Jerome Paras, Rey Briones and Tony Lasala.

Dicky Lim and Boy de Roca will lead the San Juan Coliseum group which field five entries under the names RQP San Juan and Golden Circle.

NCA president Ito Ynares heads the Binangonan Balbina Group that include Danding Cojuangco, Richard Bates and Rep. Claude Bautista while Georgie Antonio's Firefly Group will have NCA secretary general Jun Santiago, Rep. Ronnie Puno, Boy Jiao, Rene Medina and Ric de Guzman. For details, call 896-3545 and 895-6475.

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Semis2	28	9-10:30pm
Finals	30	9-10:30pm

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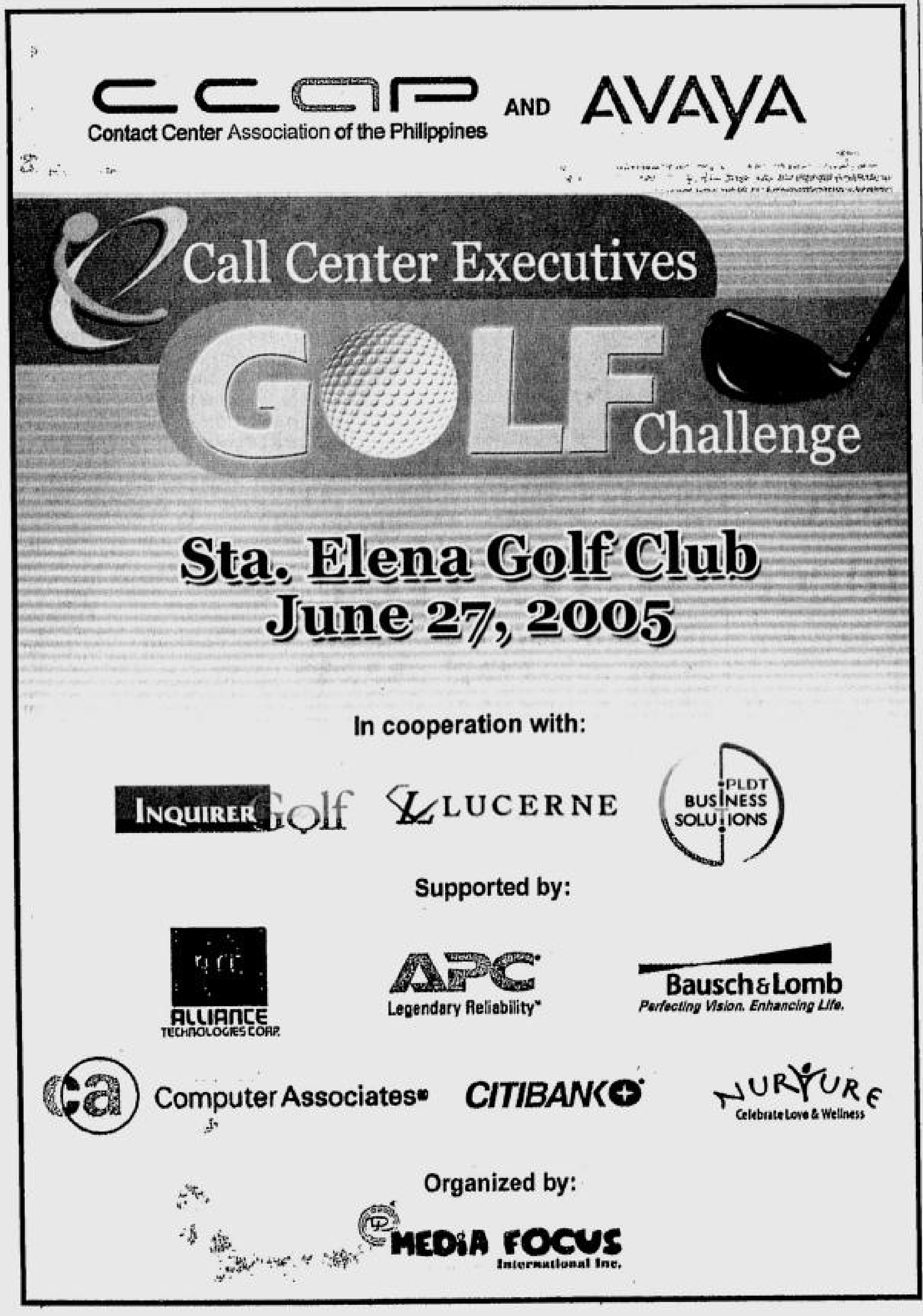

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IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

QINHUANGDAO, China—While queueing in front of the immigration counter at the Naia en route to this Chinese city, I pondered the prospects of the Philippine women's team in the 21st Fiba-Asia (formerly ABC) Women's Basketball Championship where we had been bracketed in Level B with Kazakhstan, North Korea and India, which beat us in the same tournament two years ago.

What chance do we have, I wondered, considering that our tallest player, Tetet Enriquez, is only slightly taller than I am, maybe about 5-foot-8 or 5-foot-9.

With its old lineup in 2003, the Philippines managed to win only one game in this tournament—against Hong Kong, which this year, had been bracketed with Malaysia, Singapore and Sri Lanka.

We certainly didn't have the luck of the draw this year. Had we been bracketed with Hong Kong, Singapore and Sri Lanka, there was a distinct possibility that we would qualify to the crossover semifinals.

* * *

Because of the long-raging controversy between the BAP and the POC, our participation in this biennial tournament was almost scrapped. The POC would not release the P1.5 million sponsorship, allotted by San Miguel Corp. to the RP women's team to fund the trip. Another sponsor, which had earlier said yes, went on standby mode pending the resolution of the controversy.

To compound the problem, a 6-foot-1 Filipino-American as well as the two tall reinforcements from a leading university couldn't join the team due to a conflict in schedule. The Fiba-Asia Championship was to serve as a tune-up series for the RP team and a chance for the country's basketball honchos to scout the opposition in the Southeast Asian Games in November.

But newly appointed BAP president Joey Lina would not hear of a cancellation.

"This is an international commitment we have to honor," he told the girls a few days before they left Manila. "We will find a way to send you to China. Even if you lose all your games, you have to participate."

Joey's words set everything in motion. Nearing zero hour, visas were secured, uniforms were hurriedly sewn, compliments of Accel which came to the rescue, and the required documents were expedited.

* * *

Unlike in the men's division of the Fiba-Asia Championship, the women's division has two levels. In Level One are Asia's powerhouse teams—China, Japan, South Korea, Japan, Taiwan and Thailand (yes, our SEA Games opponent is in this group). Level 2, on the other hand, is divided into two brackets of four teams each, which I mentioned earlier.

On the first day of practice, we bumped into most of the teams in Level 2 at the gym. As we arrived, the Sri Lankans, who had just finished their workout, were on their way to the bus. They were our size. Everyone wished we should have been bracketed with them. The North Koreans, who were doing their shooting drills in one of the courts, looked much taller and heftier than their southern counterparts.

Since this was the North Koreans' first time to join the competition, no one knew exactly about their caliber of play. But like the Kazakhs and the Indians, they definitely had the height advantage.

The Indians were tall and reed-thin—with an average height of 5-foot-9—and on first impression, moved well. They didn't look as formidable as the North Koreans but we lost to them two years ago, which makes them a threat. Unlike their male counterparts, they didn't look like pushovers.

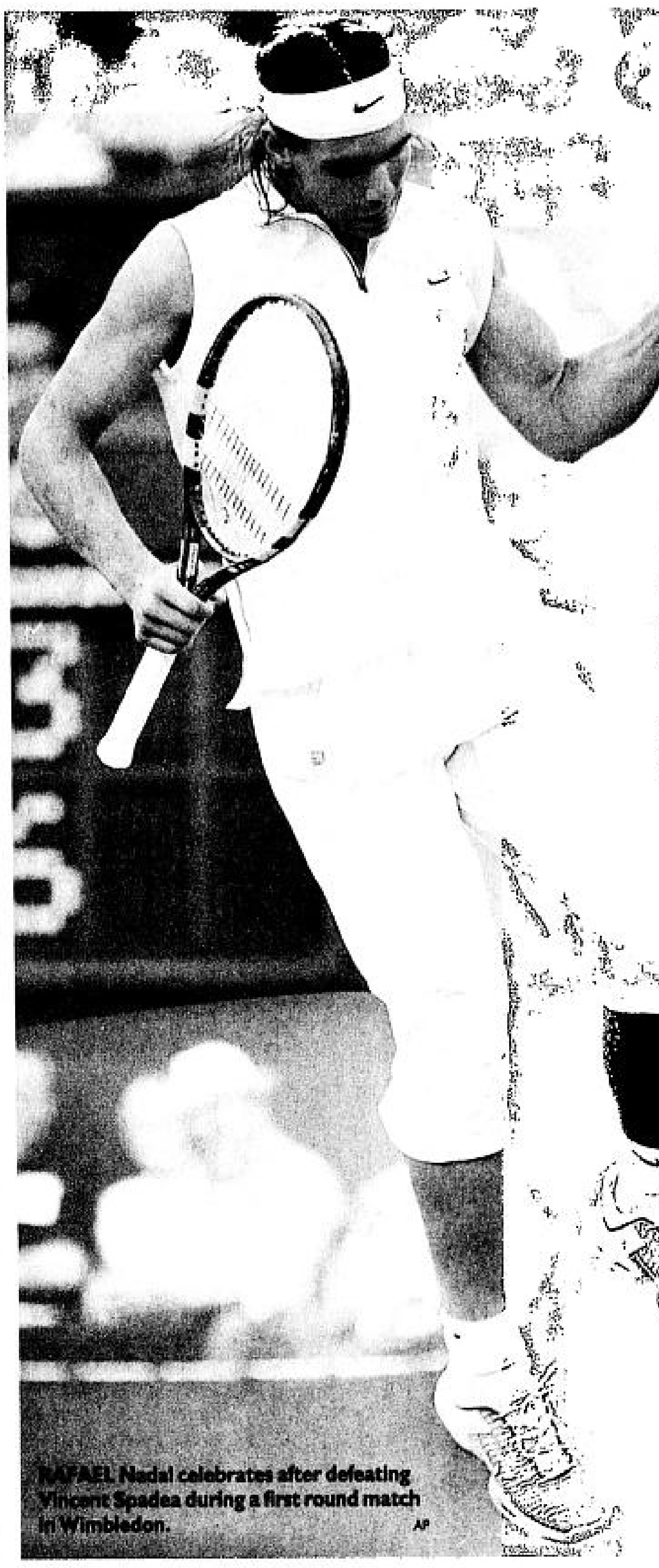
* * *

The RP cagebelles were in the last few minutes of practice when a humongous Godzilla lumbered in. For a moment everybody froze. All eyes focused on the intruder, who probably weighed about 300 lb and stands 6-foot-5. She was obviously from Kazakhstan. Most Kazakhs are Caucasians.

Behind Godzilla marched the rest of the troops, all of them a little less taller and heavier than their leader, who, thankfully turned out to be the coach. It was the Kazakh team, all right, the first team the Filipinas will meet in this tournament. Their point guard, their smallest player, was just as tall or perhaps taller than our tallest player. Their average height: 6 feet. The Kazakhs, like the North Koreans, are definitely Level 1 materials.

French Open champion gets the boot

Spanish clay king advances



RAFAEL Nadal celebrates after defeating Vincent Spadea during a first round match in Wimbledon. AP

WIMBLEDON, England—French Open winner Justine Henin-Hardenne ran out of comebacks Tuesday and lost in the first round at Wimbledon.

The Belgian became the first Roland Garros women's champion since 1962 to lose her opening match at Wimbledon when she was beaten by Eleni Daniilidou of Greece, 7-6 (8), 2-6, 7-5.

The seventh-seeded Henin-Hardenne won the second set to pull even, erased a 4-2 deficit in the final set to reach 4-all, then overcame two match points in the 10th game for 5-all. But she double-faulted twice in the final game, including on the last point when her weary serve clipped the net cord.

Two-time champion Serena Williams, playing her first match since May 11, won the final five games to beat fellow American Angela Haynes, 6-7 (12), 6-4, 6-2.

The men's French Open champion, 19-year-old Rafael Nadal, wore his clamdigger trousers on Centre Court and beat American Vince Spadea, 6-4, 6-3, 6-0.

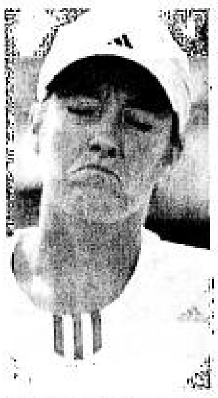
It was just Nadal's fifth match on grass.

"It turned out to be a little bit easier than I expected," the Spaniard said in broken but improving English. "I play I think a good match. I serve very good today, and that's important for my game. I am happy with my forehand, because on grass sometimes I don't play very well with the forehand.

"I'm very happy for my match."

Seeded fourth, Nadal is trying to become the first man to win the French Open and Wimbledon in the same year since Bjorn Borg in 1980.

Henin-Hardenne took two weeks off between tournaments to rest a lingering hamstring injury and said she felt rusty as a result. The match was her first on grass in two years, and she acknowledged that nerves were a problem at times.



HENIN-HARDENNE

"Playing on clay and then coming here, it's so different," she said. "You change everything."

Daniilidou, ranked 76th, came to Wimbledon with a 7-11 record this year but has enjoyed some of her best results on grass and played with poise down the stretch.

Ivo Karlovic, at 2.08 meters (6-foot-10) the tallest player in tennis, tied an ATP Tour record with 51 aces but lost a 4-hour, 17-minute marathon to lucky loser Daniele Bracciali, 6-7 (4), 7-6 (8), 3-6, 7-6 (5), 12-10.

Bracciali advanced to the second round against second-seeded Andy Roddick, who beat Jiri Vanek, 6-1, 7-6 (4), 6-2. Roddick, the runner-up to Roger Federer last year, hit 14 aces.

Englishman Tim Henman gave the partisan Centre Court crowd a thrill by rallying past Jarkko Nieminen, 3-6, 6-7 (5), 6-4, 7-5, 6-2.

Scottish 18-year-old Andrew Murray, the latest candidate for a British breakthrough at Wimbledon, beat qualifier George Bastl, 6-4, 6-2, 6-2.

Two-time champion Venus Williams, seeded 14th, won five consecutive games during one stretch and beat Eva Birnerova, 6-2, 6-4. *AP*

Sharapova, Karatantcheva forge duel

WIMBLEDON, England—Maria Sharapova is only 18 years old and already No. 2 in women's tennis.

Sesil Karatantcheva is just 15 but already looking like she could be the game's next star.

The Bulgarian will get a chance to prove herself when she faces defending champion Sharapova in the second round at Wimbledon.

The second-seeded Russian easily advanced on Tuesday after beating Nuria Llagostera Vives of Spain, 6-2, 6-2. Karatantcheva struggled a bit, but still topped Amanda Janes of Britain, 7-5, 6-7 (6), 7-5.

Sharapova has become the leading face of women's tennis since she won the title last year at the All England Club, taking the spotlight away from sisters Venus and Serena Williams and replacing Anna Kournikova as the WTA Tour's cover girl.

But nine-time champion Martina Navratilova thinks Sharapova should stop courting publicity and concentrate on tennis.

Navratilova doesn't believe in the "part athlete, part model" philosophy also shared by Serena Williams.

"You can't have two careers," Navratilova wrote in The Guardian on Tuesday.

Karatantcheva hasn't shown any trepidation in facing Sharapova in the past. Before a match against Sharapova in Indian Wells, California, in 2004, Karatantcheva pledged to "kick her (butt) off" because of a perceived slight during training.

But it's the Russian that has won both of their head-to-head meetings, the last one in the first round of the Australian Open.

Sharapova displayed her familiar grass-court flair and unveiled shoes trimmed with 18-karat gold.

"I just need some wings, and I feel like I can fly," she said. *AP*

SHARAPOVA AP

SPORTSWATCH

Veterans stamp class

CEBU City—The veterans stamped their class over younger rivals in the third day of the 4th Sun Star Superbalita 9 Ball Challenge yesterday, sending clear signals of their intention to give the foreign field one hell of a ride when the international side event of this dual meet kicks off today at the SM City Trade Hall here. Cebu's pride Warren Kiamco toyed with Leonardo Didal and kept the game close at 6-6 before taking five of the next seven racks to claim another win, 11-8. The 35-year-old three time Southeast Asian Gold medalist will next face Ronnie Alcano, also an 11-8 winner over Israel Rota.

JVC features tough field

KENNEVIC Asuncion and Ian Piencenaves will be having their hands full when the 2005 JVC Open Badminton Championships is staged beginning July 4 at the Glorietta Activity Center. Asuncion, who won in 2001 and last year, faces a tough draw in the upper bracket of the elite masters that include national players Arolas Amahit, Jaime Junio, Rodel Bartolome, Owen Lopez, Roel Bartolome and Wally Fernandez. On the other hand, Piencenaves, who won in 2002-03, will go up against national team mainstays Lloyd Escoses, Mark Natividad, Christopher Flores and Melvin Llanes. For details, visit the event's website at www.jvcbadminton.com.

SEAG f'ball: E. Timor out

EAST Timor has withdrawn from the men's football competitions of the Southeast Asian Games, dashing hopes of getting all 11 nations in one tournament for the first time. Organizers in Bacolod City, where the SEAG's centerpiece event will be held along with four other major sports, said East Timorese officials didn't cite any reason for the pullout. Thailand is heavily favored to win its fourth straight SEAG football crown. Among the tournament's dark horses, the Philippines is expected to perform well in front of provincial fans who rank football ahead of basketball.

2nd cycling search set

CREATING a bigger mass base for the sport is one of the main objectives of the Second Cycling Search Invitation Series, which marks its comeback on Friday in and around Intramuros as part of the celebration of the Araw ng Maynila. The event hopes to strengthen local clubs and discover more local talents. Several experienced riders are also expected to join the event..

BEST at Notre Dame

MILO BEST Center returns to Notre Dame of Greater Manila when it holds its Saturday-only basketball classes from July 2 to Aug. 29. BEST Center official Monica Jorge said classes will be conducted from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Other venues for Saturday-only classes are Ateneo College covered courts (8 a.m. to 11 a.m.) and San Beda College-Manila (1 p.m. to 4 p.m.). Sunday-only clinics are set at San Beda-Alabang. For details, call 4116260, 3723065 or 5258191.

USC rules Streetball

UNIVERSITY of San Carlos won two of the four divisions disputed in the adidas Streetball Challenge Visayas finals in Cebu City over the weekend, bagging the girls and midgets crowns in varying fashions to earn berths in the national finals. USC's Team Glide routed Team Garvite of Barangay Tisa, Labangon, 15-4, to rule the girls division. USC's Team McSpaghetti nipped University of Cebu's Team Chicken McDo, 15-14, and snatched the midgets crown of the event sponsored by adidas. In other results, Team Boston of University of Cebu-B outlasted University of Cebu-A's Team Beta, 15-13, to cop the seniors crown, while Team Forum of University of Southern Philippines Foundation Inc. edged Team Ignite of University of Visayas, 12-10, to capture the juniors diadem. The winners thus advanced to the national finals of the event co-presented by Globe Gentxt and backed by McDonald's.

2 derbies slated

THE NATIONAL Cockers Association (NCA) Super Special 6-Cock Derby will be staged today at the fully air- conditioned Makati Coliseum. The event will feature 78 fights today, beginning at 4 p.m. For other details, please call Makati Coliseum at 896-3545 and 895-6475. Meanwhile, cockers and breeders of Metro Manila, Cavite, Laguna and Batangas are supporting the special 3-cock derby on Saturday, June 25, at the fully air-conditioned Las Piñas Coliseum. For details, call 8731040, 8743910 and 0926-7450375.

Senior golf blasts off this Friday

THE THIRD leg of the 2005 San Miguel Super Dry Beer series conducted by the Federation of Philippine Amateur Senior Golfers Inc. will be played Friday at the Valley Golf and Country Club in Antipolo City.

Tee-off time is from 6:30 to 8:30 a.m.

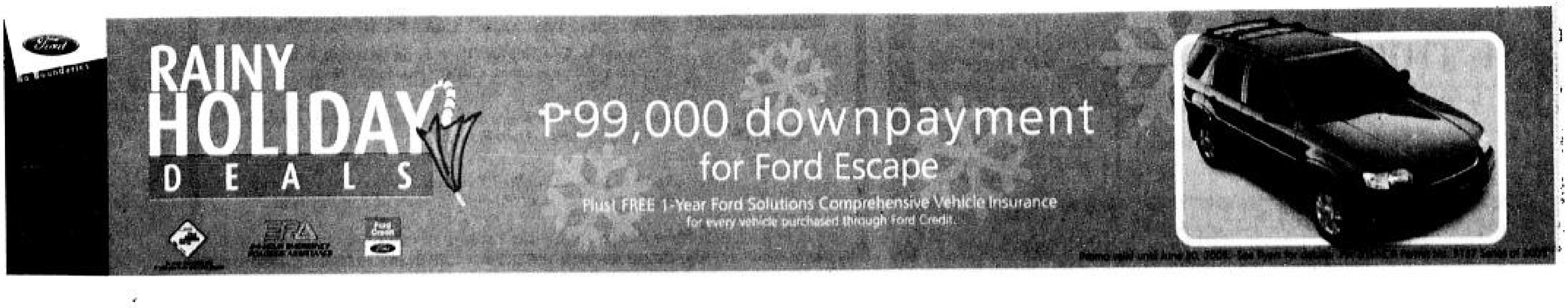
The Valley Golf Seniors Association led by its president Tony Borromeo is hosting the 18-hole event. A field of 150 is competing for individual and team honors set at the short but challenging executive course.

Federation president Col. Abe Villanueva launched the series early this year to provide the country's golfing elders additional activities.

At stake are San Miguel Super Dry Beer trophies for the different group winners.

Raffle prizes worth P150,000 will highlight the award ceremony.

Those who are 55-59 years old will play in Group A, 60-64 Group B, 65-69 Group C, 70-74 Group D and 75 and above Group E.



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The world owes this good man an apology

By Gibbs Cadiz

REVIEW

IN "HOTEL Rwanda," the brilliant actor Don Cheadle plays a hotel manager with the rather lyrical name of Paul Rusesabagina.

Rusesabagina is a real person and, in 1994, he was in charge of the four-star Hotel Des Mille Collines in the Rwandan capital of Kigali when the assassination of that country's president set off a frenzy of horrific killings that wiped out nearly a million Rwandans—men, women and children—in just three months.

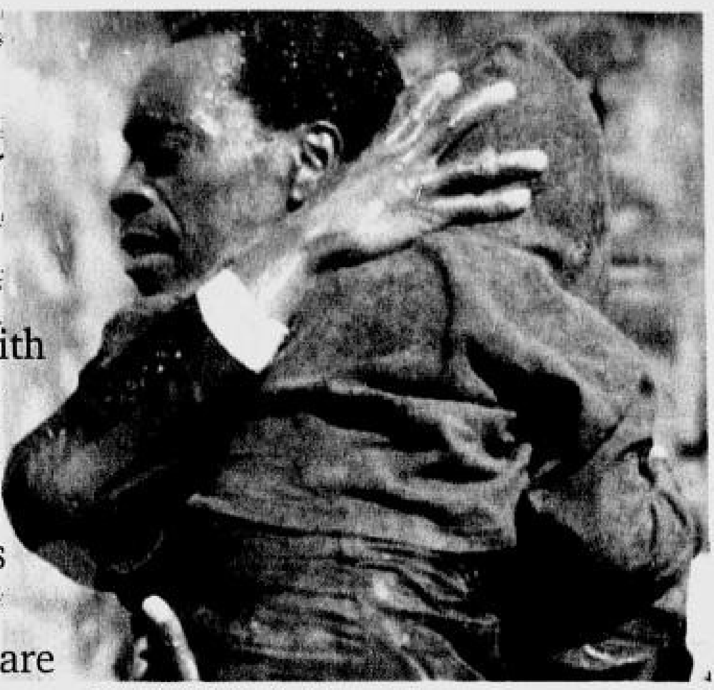
The bloodletting was genocidal in scope and unprecedented in method. Members of the *Interhamwe*, a paramilitary group composed mostly of unemployed, restless young men belonging to the governing Hutu tribe, were urged without compunction to hunt down the "cockroaches"—anyone who belonged to the minority Tutsi tribe.

For the most part, these murderers, dressed in brightly colored garments and chanting and singing as they fanned out across Rwanda's towns and cities, had no guns, explosives or mass-scale weapons to fulfill their objective. Their instrument of choice was cruder—machetes, ordered in bulk from China for 10 cents each, and sharp and durable enough to hack a grown man to pieces with a few lethal strokes.

Mayhem

With machetes, and to a lesser degree other handy instruments of mayhem like grenades and clubs studded with nails, the deadly Hutu blitzkrieg rolled out with terrible speed and efficiency. The killers worked day and night, day after day, hunting down their victims and inflicting atrocities of such grisly magnitude—rape, pillage, the disemboweling of pregnant women, the massacre of children—as to beggar disbelief.

> 'Hotel Rwanda' concerns itself with how inhumanity affects the moral moorings and everyday choices of simple individuals who are caught in its grip


DON CHEADLE as Paul Rusesabagina

This was 1994, after all. The world already had CNN and other 24-hour news monitors to bring images of this modern-day African Holocaust to living rooms everywhere. Surely, international outrage—and above all the bitter, haunting memories of Nazi Germany's genocide in World War II—would help stop the carnage.

"How can they not intervene when they see such atrocities?" Rusesabagina himself asked after a jaded journalist told him the world's denizens weren't about to bat an eyelash and skip dinner to offer help.

Incredibly enough, the world did turn away. As soon as the massacres started, foreign governments shut down their embassies in Kigali and hastily evacuated their nationals, many of whom had been staying at the Mille Collines. The United Nations provided only a token force to maintain the peace, and unable to shoot unless under attack, the blue helmets could only stand by, helpless, as the *Interhamwe* swung their deadly gleaming machetes at anyone who looked Tutsi or could not prove otherwise.

Indictment

"Hotel Rwanda" is, among other things, a towering indictment of this betrayal by the international community. But it is also the heroic, haunting story of an ordinary man who, under extremely risky circumstances and often against his better judgment, held on to his sense of decency by trying to save as many lives as he could.

Rusesabagina was the first Rwandan to rise to his esteemed position in Sabena, the Belgian company that owned the Mille Collines and another Kigali hotel, the Diplomates. He was the perfect hotel manager—discreet, thoroughly professional, friendly to everyone, gracious and accommodating, a master at wheeling and dealing and of all the other skills necessary to provide his guests an "oasis of calm and dignity" in the middle of dusty Kigali.

He was Hutu, but his wife Tatiana (a magnificent Sophie Okonedo) was Tutsi, and so were most of their neighbors and friends. But as soon the coded order "Cut the tall trees!" blared over the radio, Hutus turned on their neighbors en masse. Soon, village lawns were littered with dead, sliced bodies. The slaughter drove a number of Tutsis to seek shelter, first in Rusesabagina's home ("You are the only Hutu they can trust," Tatiana tells him) and then at the Mille Collines.

Danger lay everywhere. With central government power imploding and paramilitary brigades running riot on their own, every checkpoint represented a close call with death. Rusesabagina alternately bribed and plied the rampaging horde with money, beer and goods to keep their hands off his family and "guests"—the young orphans, government officials, friends, evacuees and staff who were holed up in the hotel.

When simple bribery wouldn't do, he counted on the protection of one Gen. Bizimungu, head of the Hutu armed forces, to keep the killers at bay. Or so he thought he could, until he ran out of whiskey and cash to slide into the general's briefcase, as was the custom. By this time, Rusesabagina was near breaking point, and in an extraordinary scene in the movie, he would mount a hugely dangerous bluff on the general by threatening to testify against him in a war crimes trial once the country's strife was over, unless he reined in the mob that was threatening to hack its way through the hotel. Bizimungu backed down.

Nightmare

Director Terry Jones mounts this gut-wrenching nightmare of a story with clear-eyed faith in the power of cinema to raise troubling questions and provoke strong emotions.

This he does in a remarkably disciplined, unflashy way, which only adds greater force to his message. There is no discernible attempt in "Hotel Rwanda" to

TITLE/ A27

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4 GOLD (DTS) BATMAN BEGINS
5 GOLD (DOLBY) MR. & MRS. SMITH
6 GOLD (SDDS) A LOT LIKE LOVE
7 GOLD (DOLBY) NASAAN KAMAN
8 [illegible] MADAGASCAR
9 [illegible] SIN CITY
10 [illegible] NASAAN KAMAN

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4 A LOT LIKE LOVE
Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
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3 (DTS) BATMAN BEGINS
4 A LOT LIKE LOVE
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1 HOUSE OF WAX
2 NASAAN KAMAN
3 (DOLBY) UNLEASHED
Cinema 2000 Metrotown (Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 A LOT LIKE LOVE
2 NASAAN KAMAN
3 (DOLBY) BATMAN BEGINS
4 (DTS) HOUSE OF WAX
Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Plaridel) tel (044) 796.3320
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2 NASAAN KA MAN
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Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
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MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 KILITI
3
4

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(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
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Universal (Manila) tel 733.2470
1 BATMAN BEGINS

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4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) BATMAN BEGINS
5 MR. & MRS. SMITH

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2 NASAAN KAMAN
3 (DTS ES) BATMAN BEGINS
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Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276
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2 GRACIA
3 LIGAYA KATUMBAS AY BUHAY
4 (DTS) SHAOLIN VS' EVILDEAD

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
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6 NASAAN KA MAN

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2 BATMAN BEGINS
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2 RESERVED

Centre Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 STARWARS: EPISODE-3
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Berma Cinema (Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
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BATMAN BEGINS 12:20 / 1:00 / 3:10 / 3:50 / 6:00 / 6:40 / 8:50 / 9:30
HOTEL RWANDA 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00
NASAAN KA MAN 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00

GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
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❷ BATMAN BEGINS 11:15 / 2:15 / 5:15 / 8:15
❸ MR & MRS SMITH 12:10 / 2:50 / 5:30 / 8:10
❹ KILITI 11:40 / 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00
❺ MONSTER IN LAW 12:40 / 3:20 / 6:00 / 8:40

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June 22, Wed. 2005 PBA FIESTA CONF. SEMIS 4:45pm Red Bull vs San Miguel / 7:35pm Shell vs Talk N Text
NCAA OPENING CEREMONIES - GAMES June 25, Saturday, 1pm
SOUTH BORDER CONCERT - INDEPENDENT June 24, Friday, 8pm
June 26, Sun. 2005 PBA FIESTA CONF. SEMIS 4:15pm Red Bull vs San Miguel / 6:35pm Shell vs Talk N Text

CENTER EVENTS
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So Shoe Me: The Mother Of All Shoe Festivals extended until June 30 at the Upper Ground Floor of Ali Mall
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Speedo Sale with up to 50% off on selected items ongoing until September 15 at the Ground Floor of Gateway Mall

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Less than stellar moments on 'Star in A Million'

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WE caught the new "Star in A Million" singing tilt on Channel 2 last Sunday evening, and were impressed to hear so many promising singers in the competition's Top 50 semi-finalists.

Around seven of them did so well in the tilt that we felt that, in a fair and agreeable universe, they would pretty much be sure bets to end up in the finals.

But there were other aspects to the competition that weren't so agreeable.

For one thing, to pare the 50 semi-finalists down to 40 that night, the contestants were divided into groups of five, each assigned to do one song, and each young talent was assigned some two lines of his group's song to perform.

We felt that this system of evaluation was not very fair, because it forced some singers to perform below or above their vocal range, to fit in with the other singers assigned to a particular song. The problem was exacerbated by the fact that a song was assigned to both male *and* female singers.

This was patently unwise, because male and female vocal ranges are often different, so some contestants' performances would be compromised.

True enough, when the five songs were sung, quite a number of singers had to strain to reach some notes. This was a poor way to evaluate the 50 semi-finalists' singing talent, because it placed undue stress on their performances.

Despite this occasionally unfair situation, the tilt's jurors breezily proceeded to evaluate the contestant's talent on just the few lines of the songs they were assigned to sing. We submit that you can't properly appreciate a performer's talent and promise in this facile way.

Too harsh

In addition, some of the judges were too sweeping and harsh in their critiques. Scathing putdowns like "You should stop singing" and "Your performance is a waste of time" hit some of the contestants where they lived and breathed (and died).

We suppose the jurors were only being "honest," telling the contestants "the truth" so that they could learn from the critiques. But this is no way to treat young talents, who should be encouraged rather than cut down to size, so that their promise can reach its full flowering.

Perhaps the "Simon Cowell Syndrome" has something to do with this? If so, local singing tilt jurors should refrain from aping "American Idol's" Mr. Mean, because cruelty is counterproductive on the local performing scene. Besides, it's just too *gaya-gaya, puto-maya* for words.

In any case, at the end of the last Sunday's telecast, the 50 semi-finalists were cut down to 40, and 10 more will be eliminated this Sunday.

We hope, however, that the people behind the show will objectively evaluate last Sunday's telecast, to learn from its mistakes, and to give the remaining semi-finalists fairer and more "humane" treatment from here on in.

It's important to encourage young talents, because they aren't completely formed as adults, so their psyches are still vulnerable to unkind and thoughtless critiques.

Besides, how could the jurors say that some of the semi-finalists weren't talented and should stop singing, when they were handpicked by the show's evaluators from hundreds of applicants?

Obviously, the 50 semi-finalists have been found to have *some* talent, so when the jurors reject them, they are implicitly questioning the show's selection process.

This is a case of the show's left hand not knowing what its right hand is doing, leaving the viewers perplexed, dissatisfied and miffed.

> The show's left hand knows not what the right hand is doing

Movies on TV

ON HBO, June 23 at 6:30 a.m., "Soapdish." 12:55 a.m., "Carnivale: Babylon." June 24 at 11:30 a.m., "And Starring Pancho Villa As Himself." 7:30 p.m., "Nick of Time."

On Cinemax, June 23 at 10 a.m., "Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure." 11:30 a.m., "A Few Good Men." 2 p.m., "Mary Shelley's Frankenstein." 6:30 p.m., "Scent of A Woman." June 24 at 9 a.m., "Don King: Only in America." 7:30 p.m., "American Crime."

'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'

Tim Burton brings his vividly imaginative directorial style to the beloved Roald Dahl classic, "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," about eccentric chocolatier Willy Wonka (Johnny Depp) and Charlie Bucket (Freddie Highmore), a good-hearted boy from a poor family who lives in the shadow of Wonka's extraordinary factory.

Once inside the chocolate factory, Charlie is dazzled by one amazing sight after another. Almost as intriguing as his fanciful inventions is Willy Wonka himself, a gracious but most unconventional host. Other stars include Helena Bonham Carter and Noah Taylor.

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3 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE H2G2 MTRCB: GP 11:30, 2:05,4:40,7 15,9 50
4 HOTEL RWANDA MTRCB R-13 11:00, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00
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3 BATMAN BEGINS 10:20, 1:25, 4:30 7:35, 10:40 GP
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THE HITCHHIKER GP 1:10,3:30,5:50,8:10,10:30
MONSTER IN LAW PG13 1:25,3:45,6:05,8:25
MR. & MRSSMITH R13 12:05,2:35,5:05,7:35,10:05
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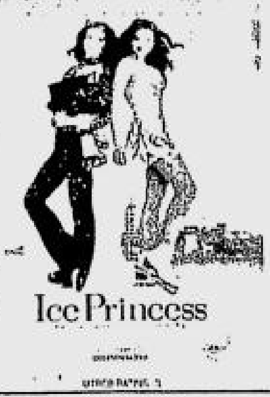

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4 MR. & MRS. SMITH
5 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
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7 SHUTTER
8 ICE PRINCESS
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11 NASAAN KA MAN
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2 STARWARS: EPISODE III
3 PREMONITION
4 MR. & MRS. SMITH
5 NASAAN KA MAN
6 MONSTER-IN-LAW
7 BATMAN BEGINS
8 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE
9 SHUTTER
10 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
11 KILITI
12 A LOT LIKE LOVE

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2 MONSTER-IN-LAW
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7 UNLEASHED
8 MAN OF THE HOUSE
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1 A LOT LIKE LOVE
2 NASAAN KA MAN
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2 HOUSE OF WAX
3 NASAAN KA MAN
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3 UNLEASHED
4 NASAAN KA MAN

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8 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS

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G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY	2 BATMAN BEGINS	3 THX BATMAN BEGINS 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 NASAAN KA MAN	5 HOTEL RWANDA	6 MOSNTER-IN-LAW	7 MR. & MRS. SMITH
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 MR. & MRS. SMITH 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30	2 BATMAN BEGINS 12:20, 3:20, 6:20, 9:20		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX MONSTER-IN-LAW 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00, 11:15 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX BATMAN BEGINS 2:20, 5:20, 8:20, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 NASAAN KA MAN 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 MR. & MRS. SMITH 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX BATMAN BEGINS	2 MONSTER-IN-LAW		
	3 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY	4 NASAAN KA MAN	5 MR. & MRS. SMITH	
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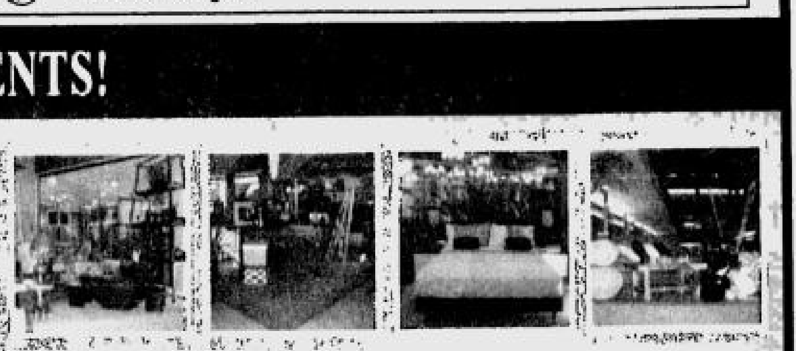

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What Guy told Pip about the charges she faces in the US

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

JUST ASKING.

Tirso Cruz III guested in one of the concerts of his old friend **Nora Aunor** in the United States recently. He's back in town, and he told us that he asked the Superstar the real score about the drug possession charges she is currently facing. According to him, La Aunor said she met a friendly foreigner at the Los Angeles airport. After some chit-chat, she asked the stranger to watch over her bags while she went to the ladies' room. Perhaps some "hocus pocus" happened; that's why shabu was found in her stuff later on. I just wonder where La Aunor's coterie of *alalays* were when that happened. Aren't they supposed to mind the superstar's belongings? Or has Ate Guy become so American-ized (she's been in the US for quite a while) that she no longer needs helpers?

* * *

Are there really plans of casting **Dennis Trillo** in the fantaserye version of "Captain Barbell?" What about his team-up with **Angel Locsin** in "Darna"? Or are they going to join forces as super heroes with a new twist—as super lovers? Even if there are no concrete plans yet, just the thought of seeing Dennis in a tight costume already makes girls, gays and matrons swoon!

* * *

Is it true that **Jeremy Marquez** has been sending tons of flowers to **Rufa Mae Quinto** non-stop, but that romance can't really bloom between them because Dennis Trillo is also pursuing Ruffa Mae? Besides, Jeremy's annulment has not been granted, so maybe he should see his lawyer before his florist huh? Although Ruffa Mae has vehemently denied being involved with Dennis, what's this I hear that her ex, **Rudy Hatfield**, texted Ruffa Mae a few weeks after their split up, saying, " You must be 1 lucky charm! I won MVP and Dennis won Best Actor!" Stinging sarcasm or well-meant compliment?

* * *

Are **Shaina Magdayao** and **Patrick Garcia** the newest lovebirds in Showbizlandia? Patrick was previously linked to older women. Has Shaina made him change his preference? Or does Patrick just want to have one of each kind?

'Y speak'

MY son **IC** and I had a blast when we guested on Studio 23's "Y-Speak." The show's bubbly hosts, **Ryan Agoncillo** and **Bianca Gonzales**, have the right blend of wit and candor. During the show, we were all ribbing Ryan when **Judy Ann Santos'** VTR was aired. He could not stop blushing.

I cornered Ryan (whom I fondly call Harry Potter for obvious reasons) and asked, "Isn't Juday going to drop by, since she's just in the next studio?" He smiled and said, "She usually does but she has to go to church now."

I know for a fact that they visit each other on the set of their shows when their schedules permit. Between shows, they spend a lot of time together. The twinkle in Ryan's eyes is courtesy of Juday, no doubt.

Bianca wasn't spared from our teasing, either. Rep. **Alan Cayetano** was also a guest. It so happens that Bianca is going steady with his younger brother, **Direk Lino Cayetano**. It was a fun episode, indeed. We all went home in high spirits!

Dream house

CARMINA **Villaroel** is all agog about the dream house that **Zoren Legazpi** and she are having built.

"I can hardly wait to move to our new place," Carmina told me. Zoren and I are tired of renting *na*. Our house has a modern Zen motif. It's mostly wood, because I love wood. The garden will have a gazebo, Balinese style. It's a three-level house (den on the first level, three bedrooms on the second, an attic on the third)."

I'm very happy for Mina. I know that their dream house is a product of Zoren's and her blood, sweat and tears. After hibernating in the US when Mina gave birth to their adorable twins, they both made a successful show biz comebacks.

It seems like only yesterday when Mina was a favorite guest in our family gatherings. She was the childhood crush of my cousin Marti. To this day, I tease her about it and we have a good laugh. All the fame has not changed her, not one bit. With some stars, fame causes a certain kind of amnesia. Mina's attitude is as refreshing as her face!

Her aunt's clone

MERYLL **Soriano** is like a younger clone of her aunt, **Maricel Soriano**. She looks, sounds and moves like Maria! The charming daughter of **Willie Revillame** is cast as a jolly nun in "Kampanerang Kuba." I asked her what she thought about the competition between "KK" and "Darna." She quipped, "It's a close fight. It's good for both shows so that we're all challenged to give the audience better episodes."

That's the spirit, girl !

Tea party

LAST weekend while I was having dinner in Greenbelt, I chanced upon a group of fab models talking to restaurant patrons. I got curious, so I asked around and found out that it was a restaurant tour being conducted by Lipton's Hot Teas. I was impressed with the way they enticed the diners to take a sip of their tea. I tried out one of their newest products (Darjeeling). Savoring the hot tea, plus my scrumptious dinner—it was a divine experience.

The restaurant tour goes to Metro Manila's hottest places, such as Metrowalk, Alabang and Eastwood City. With Lipton, it's not tea or sympathy but tea and party!

(For feedback, e-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaithband.com)

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The world owes this good man an apology

From page A24

whiplash us with images of decapitated heads and battered flesh. Scenes of stark violence are rare, and blood and gore are shot at a distance, often through a foggy haze. The movie, in this way, is more concerned with how inhumanity affects the moral moorings and everyday choices of simple individuals like Rusesabagina who are caught in its grip.

Driving out for supplies one night, Rusesabagina and his driver detour through an unusually bumpy road. Rusesabagina alights, and finds himself on a highway choked with hundreds of corpses as far as the eye can see. The camera steps back to embrace the harrowing sight, and in this scene, "Hotel Rwanda" achieves the heartbreaking, heaven-storming outrage of "The Killing Fields."

Yet "Hotel Rwanda's" most painful scene is not even of this grisly sort. It occurs as a quiet exchange between Rusesabagina and Tatiana, after he realizes that the UN contingent isn't staying, and no intervention force is coming, either. Rwanda's former Western colonizers aren't about to get involved, and they are, for all purposes, abandoned, left to die. The civilized world as Rusesabagina knows it has failed him.

"I am a fool," he says, breaking down. "They told me I was one of them, and I swallowed it. Wine, chocolates, cigars, style—I swallowed all of it. And they handed me their shit... I have no history. I have no memory. I am a fool."

By some miracle, Rusesabagina, his family and "guests" survived the Rwandan apocalypse. He now lives in Belgium. "Hotel Rwanda" is a powerful reminder that the world still owes this good man and his countrymen an apology.

(E-mail the author at gcadiz@inquirer.com.ph)

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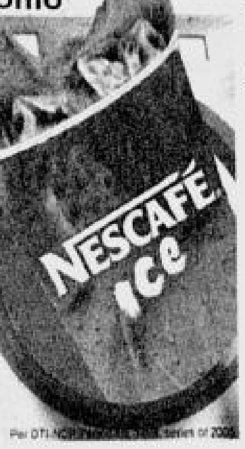

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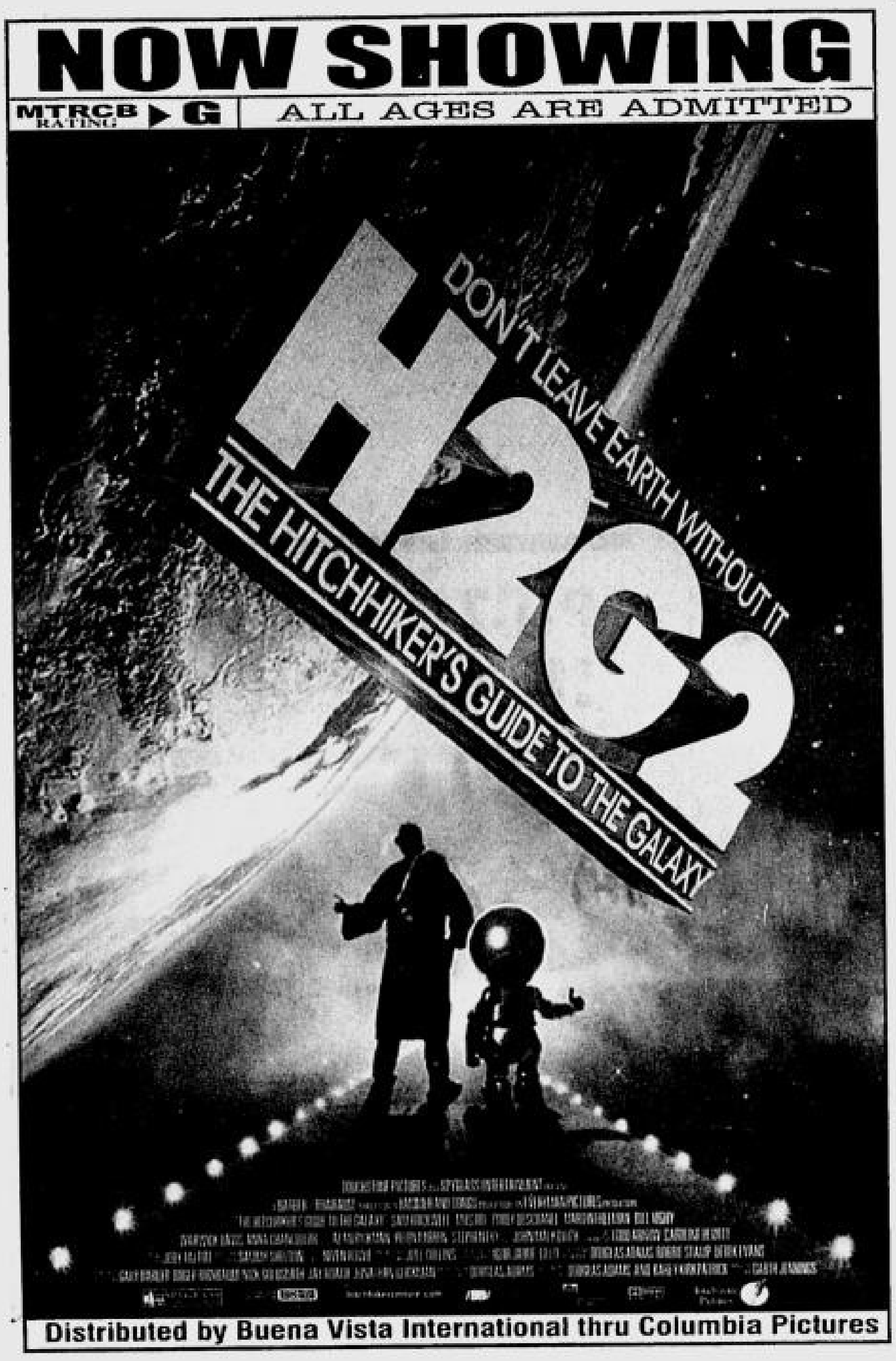
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PILITA Corrales

ASIA'S Queen of Song Pilita Corrales leads a select group of performers for Kapihan sa Manila's 20th anniversary dinner-show, "20 Million Cups Served ... And Still Serving," on June 27 at Manila Hotel's Fiesta Pavilion.

Dinner is at 7 p.m., show time 9 p.m.

Kapihan sa Manila was founded in 1985 by the editors of the top three newspapers during the Marcos era, led by Neal H. Cruz.

Monday's dinner show will also star Nonoy Zuñiga, Juan Rodrigo and Marri Nallos.

The script is by multi-awarded movie writer Roy Iglesias.

For tickets, call 758-3228 or 252-1560.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Showbiz No. 1	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Qpids	TV Patrol World		Meteor Garden Full Edition	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Kampanerang Kuba	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Oh Feel Young	Maalaala Mo Kaya			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		FIBA (Reruns)				Sentro	American Idol			The Best Of Guinness Book Of Records		Big News	Inq TV		ESPN Golf	
GMA 7	Saang Sulok Ng Langit	Now and Forever	Glass Shoes	Tenjho Tenge	Shaman King	Flame Of Recca	Full House	24 Oras		Darna		Encantadia	Extra Challenge		TBA	Magpakailanman			Saksi
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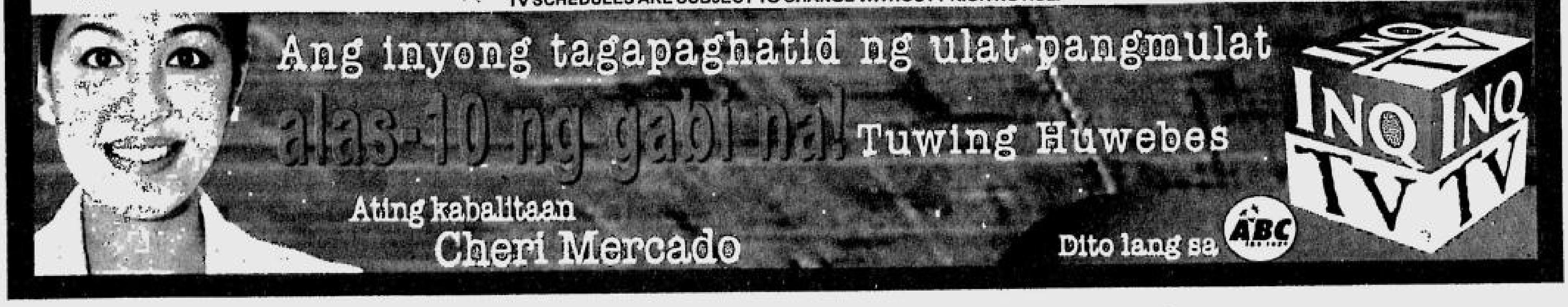
IBC 13		Lifestyle		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		Home Shopping Network		Asian X-Tour			TM-9 Ball		IBC News Tonite		
JackTV	Just For Laughs	Just For Laughs	Ride With Funk Master Flex	WWE Judgement Day				Cinematech	Family Guy	Mad TV		Reno 911	Crank Yankers	South Park	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Hip-Hop Nation	Ride With Funk Master Flex	WWE Velocity	
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues	Rugrats	The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	Yakkity Yak	Chalkzone	Rocket Power	Hey Arnold!	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Rugrats
MYX	MYX Firsts	Urban MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	My MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX	Star MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Presents		My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX
ETC		Significant Others	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Good Morning Miami	Committed	American Dreams		Queer Eye For The Straight Girl		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
Cinema One		Kamulayan Ko Ang Ibigin Ka				Kailan Sasabihing Mahal Kita				Minsan Ka Lang Sasabihin				Silaw				Aluang	
Studio 23								Batman Beyond	Beyblade	Wazzup Wazzup	Birds Of Prey	Alias		Desperate Housewives		News Central	Oprah		Chefs On The Go
AXN		Fear Factor		CSI: NY (Season I)		Max Exposure (Season I)		The Associates		Alias (Season III)		Worst Case Scenario		Lost		Fright Night			
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Home Improvement	Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	Invasion Iowa	Growing Up Gotti	The Simple Life	Arrested Development	The Apprentice		Friends	Invasion Iowa
CNN		Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	Global Office	World News Asia		Your World Today	
National Geographic		Pharaoh's Week		Marine Machine		Demolition Dynasty		Wildlife Detectives	Insects From Hell	Wow		About Asia		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Frontlines Of Construction		Marine Machine	
Solar Sports		TV Shopping		WTA '05 Pacific Life Open Indian Wells, USA					Yonex Sunrise Open Badminton		In This Corner		Sports Desk	NBA Greatest Game				Vintage NBA	
Lifestyle Network	Secret Gardens	The Fal	Mission Organization	Carol Duvall	Molto Mario	Hot Off The Grill	Good Eats	Extreme Cuisine	Unwrapped	Tyler's Ultimate	E! News Weekend		Good Finds	Life & Style		Area		Road & Track	Back To Basics
HBO			Abuse Of Power (3.45PM)				Deadly Visions (5.35PM)		Seabiscuit (6.35PM)		Taking Lives (7:20PM)			Bad Boys II					The Phantom (11.20PM)
Star Movies			Chasing Papi (3:35PM)			Ozzie								First Knight					River's Edge (11:20PM)
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	Ed, Edd N Eddy	Static Shock	Xiaolin Showdown	Teen Titans	Zoids Fusion	Medabots	The Looney Tunes Show		The Powerpuff Girls	Dexter's Laboratory	Time Squad	Thundercats	Xiaolin Showdown	Teen Titans
ESPN					X Games Invitational	In The Driver's Seat	LPGa Golf Wegmans Rochester					Sportscenter Asia		U.S. Open Golf C'ship		U.S. Women's Open Golf Champs Preview	Major League Baseball		
Disney Channel	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Un-talkative Bunny	So Little Time	Buzz Lightyear Star Command	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	House Of Mouse	Treasure Planet			So Little Time	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Ranger	The Amazing Zorro	
Cinemax				King Rat					Scent Of A Woman					Relentless			Deadly Voyage		
Hallmark Channel	Who's The Boss	Strong Medicine		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Who's The Boss	The Nanny	Sue Thomas: F.B Eye		Strong Medicine		Mara Doctour Rey			Judging Amy (10:35PM)		Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye
Discovery Channel		Hour Asia		First Time Film Makers		Wild Discovery		I Survived: Freefall		Extreme Machines		We Built This City		Polar Bear Battlefields		Extraordinary Experiences: Queen Mary 2, Birth Of A Legend		Power Zone	
MTV Philippines			Hangin Out at MTV		MTV Get Spotted		TRL		Lokal: Orange & Lemons	MTV Divas		Battle for Ozzfest	One Bad Trip	Wildboyz	Cribs	On Board at MTV	MTV Urban Beats	VH1 Video Collection	
Sports Plus						Get A Grip On Golf	Golf Globe '03	Raceworld		World's Greatest Auto Shows		World Poker Tour Ep 14 Championships				Nascar Michigan 500			

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.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JUNE 23, 2005
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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Grime does not pay.
FOR CLEAN EMISSIONS.
PETRON

Peso steady at 55.645:$1; HSBC forecasts rebound

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO yesterday closed at 55.645:$1, almost unchanged from Tuesday's 55.64, as traders paused after the wild slide seen over the previous weeks.

Foreign exchange traders said the banks that had sold pesos in favor of US dollars saw a good opportunity to take profits while awaiting further developments on the local political front.

After threatening to break past 56:$1 last Tuesday, the local currency gained some ground as the market started to digest the political tension and chose to wait on the sidelines before taking any further action.

HSBC Securities, for instance, said the Philippine peso was poised for a rebound as it believed most of the factors that had weakened the local currency had been fully priced into the exchange rate.

Recommending a "buy" on the peso, HSBC Asian currency strategist Richard Yetsanga predicted a reversal in the US dollar's gains against the euro that, in turn, should benefit the peso.

He said it was "extremely unlikely" that President Macapagal-Arroyo would be toppled through another popular uprising and expected the current political noise to fizzle out.

As the Lower House commenced its hearings on the wiretapped conversations allegedly involving the President, and the Senate on the illegal gambling payoffs, ATR Kim Eng Securities economist Luz Lorenzo aired concern that the political uncertainties might derail the implementation of much needed econom-

PESO/B3

A FILIPINO trader stretches during morning trading at the Philippine Stock Exchange in the financial district of Makati as shares ended marginally higher on a technical rebound after two sessions of losses on Wednesday, June 22. AP

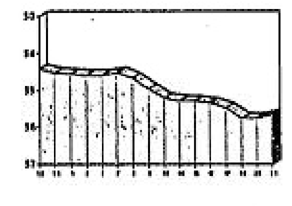
WHAT'S INSIDE

Mindanao exports hit $338M in March /B14
Meralco to start final phase of refund /B4
BSP turns down bid to aid pre-need firms /B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



₱ 55.645 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., June 22, 2005

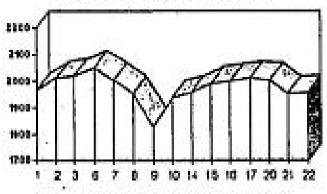
¥ 109.46 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., June 21, 2005

GOLD: $437.60-438.10
per ounce Hong Kong, June 21, 2005

STOCK MARKET

Bargain-hunting lifts stocks

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARE prices closed 0.23 percent higher yesterday on modest bargain-hunting after a sharp two-day fall sparked by political concerns and record oil prices, dealers said.

They said, however, that the gains would likely be shortlived in the face of possible political instability sparked by allegations of vote rigging and corruption against President Gloria Arroyo and members of her family.

How the economy fares under the pressure of record oil prices is a long-term issue which could easily derail economic policy.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index rose 4.53 points to 1,958.62, having traded between 1,951.83 and 1,961.45. Volume was 532 million shares worth P817 million. AFP

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TOYOTA FINANCIAL SERVICES 858-8500
TOYOTA ALABANG, INC. 800-0801 to 32 / 802-1091 TOYOTA BACOLOD CITY, (034) 444-1811 to 12 TOYOTA BAGUIO CITY, (074) 443-6778 / (074) 300-3273 to 74 TOYOTA BALINTAWAK, INC., 366-8001 to 06 / 364-1547 to 50 / 364-4071 to 75 TOYOTA BALINTAWAK-NORTH, 927-7215 / 17 / 30 / 39 / 927-7242 / 44 / 48 / 52 / 927-7257 / 62 / 65 / 927-7268 / 69 TOYOTA BATANGAS CITY, INC., (043) 723-7386 / TOYOTA CABANATUAN CITY, INC. (044) 463-8481 to 87 TOYOTA CAGAYAN DE ORO, INC., (088) 858-9904 (088) 858-7770 TOYOTA CEBU CITY, INC., (032) 253-1161 to 08 (032) 254-8251 to 54 TOYOTA CEBU-MANDAUE, (032) 345-8670 TOYOTA COMMONWEALTH, 952-1021 to 27 TOYOTA CUBAO, INC., 911-0651 to 64 TOYOTA DAGUPAN CITY, INC., (075) 517-2026 to 28 (076) 522-6771 / 0734 / 4773 TOYOTA DASMARINAS CAVITE, (046) 850-0223 / 0272 / 0277 / 0000 / 2036 / 2386 / 2929 / 2421 / 2487 / 2586 / 2824 (02) 520-8115 TOYOTA DAVAO CITY, INC., (082) 234-2994 TOYOTA ILOILO CITY, INC., (033) 320-6116 to 19 TOYOTA MAKATI INC., 897-3333 TOYOTA MANILA BAY CORP., 832-3372 TOYOTA MARIKINA SERVICE STATION, 682-8701 to 02 TOYOTA OTIS, INC., 564-1811 to 20 TOYOTA PASONG TAMO, INC., 893-8084 TOYOTA QUEZON AVENUE, INC., 712-5001 to 06 TOYOTA SHAW, INC., 717-0338 to 40 TOYOTA SAN FERNANDO-PAMPANGA, INC., (045) 961-1168 TOYOTA SHAW-ORTIGAS, 671-9854 to 64

BSP turns down proposal to aid ailing pre-need firms

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday turned down the proposal of a Securities and Exchange Commission official for the BSP to open a liquidity window for ailing pre-need firms.

Juan de Zuniga Jr., BSP chief legal counsel and assistant governor, yesterday said that the banking regulator could only extend liquidity assistance to banks as these institutions were under the BSP's jurisdiction.

"It is not in our mandate, not in our area," Zuniga said.

The BSP official was puzzled why the proposal was even included in the bill creating a pre-need insurance corporation.

Zuniga said even the BSP's rediscounting window could not accommodate pre-need companies.

The rediscounting facility is a relending window offered by the BSP to banks.

A proposal has been filed in Congress seeking the creation of the Philippine Preneed Insurance Corp., which will manage a national government fund, including fees collected from pre-need firms and its reserves.

Jesus Martinez, SEC commissioner and chair of the committee on pre-need, said instead of such an insurance company, what the pre-need industry needed was a BSP liquidity window so that ailing companies could liquidate its assets.

House Bill No. 3741 proposed the establishment of a P50-million fund by the national government. The bill include assessment fees collected from pre-need insurance firms, as well as reserves for insurance and financial assistance losses.

The proposed entity will have the same authority and functions bestowed upon the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.

The PDIC is an overseer of banking institutions.

Besides conducting periodic assessments of pre-need firms and impose fines on mismanaged companies, the proposed body will have the option to provide loans to bail out endangered pre-need companies.

Based on the estimates of the Securities and Exchange Commission, the pre-need industry has over P800 billion worth of assets in real estate, treasury bills, or government bonds.

For PPI, rehab may no longer be an option

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE YUCHENGCO-LED pre-need firm Pacific Plans Inc. may no longer have to go through rehabilitation once a local court decides to put Lifetime Plans Inc. back under its wing, according to an official of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

On June 9, Judge Romeo Barza of the Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 61 ordered PPI to submit an audited financial report showing the assets and liabilities of Lifetime with Pacific Plans.

The order will pave the way for the court to determine whether PPI's petition for rehabilitation is moot and academic.

SEC Commission Secretary Gerard Lukban said that the court's June 9 order lays the foundation for the SEC to eventually dismiss PPI's petition for rehabilitation.

This is because Lifetime's assets, should the pre-need firm be folded back into PPI, may be enough to cover for PPI's liabilities.

"You may be looking at a healthy company," Lukban said of Pacific Plans.

PPI earlier asked the Makati RTC to allow it to suspend payments and go through rehabilitation after it claimed it had run out of cash.

Before PPI could submit the financial reports to the court, PPI legal counsel Jeanette Tecson yesterday said that PPI would have to wait for the SEC to decide on Lifetime's motion asking the regulator to reconsider its revocation order.

SEC earlier revoked Lifetime's certificate of incorporation for failing to comply with requirements to establish itself as a corporation.

Lifetime—which sells fixed value plans—has more than 400,000 plan holders.

PPI on the other hand has 34,000 plan holders. About 16,000 plan holders have filed educational claims for schoolyear 2005-2006.

In a supplemental comment, the SEC told the court that since Lifetime no longer exists, the assets of Lifetime now pertain to PPI.

The SEC argued that PPI's petition for rehabilitation should be dismissed for being moot and academic.

Smart promo reels in 1.4M subscribers

By Clarissa S. Batino

SMART Communications Inc. has already lured in 1.4 million subscribers to its unlimited 258 promo launched last March, the company's top official said.

Smart president Napoleon Nazareno said the bucket deal had also been boosting the company's revenue.

"We have participated in a new market segment while maintaining the network quality of service for our regular paying subscribers. Smart 258 has enhanced our revenues with minimal incremental cost," said Nazareno.

As of end-March, Smart and its unit Pilipino Telephone Corp. counted 20.2 million subscribers.

Nazareno said the plan was to continue the bucket offering and make it a part of Smart and Talk N' Text's menu for customers.

The leading wireless companies continue to offer what officials described as a "revised and revitalized" buffet pricing of P115 for unlimited calls, and P60 for unlimited text.

Plan 258 was re-launched on April 21 after Smart made some changes to ensure that the unlimited prepaid traffic would not affect postpaid customers.

To avoid congesting their network, Smart and Piltel have imposed a cap on the length of the unlimited calls to no more than three minutes during peak hours, and a maximum of 10 minutes during off peak hours between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m.

Sun Cellular set off a price war when it launched in October its 24/7 plan that allowed subscribers to call and text within the network without limit for P250 for 30 days and P100 for P10 days.

The price of 24/7 is now P350 for 30 days and P100 for seven days. It also sells unlimited text for P50 for seven days and P150 a month.

Globe Telecom Inc. refused to join the unlimited price war and instead cut the cost of its prepaid calls by 60 percent and text by half under a new promo called Celebrate, which was launched on June 12.

For P115, Smart and Talk N' Text subscribers could call all they want for seven days and text all they want for P60 for four days.

Aside from the cap imposed on calls, Smart and Piltel also cut the length of the bucket package from 10 days for unlimited calls, and six days of unlimited text during the initial promo.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of June 22, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31	31.5	31	31	901,300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	50	50	49.5	50	1,388,900
China Banking Corp.	770	770	770	770	470
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	400
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	49	50	48	49.5	229,900
International Exch. Bank	19	19	19	19	74,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30.5	30.5	30	30	451,200
Prudential Bank	400	400	400	400	510
Philippine National Bank	42	43	42	43	305,200
Phil. Savings Bank	32	32	32	32	3,400
Security Bank Corp.	26	26	26	26	17,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	2,600
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
ATR Kim Eng Fin. Corp.	1.92	1.92	1.92	1.92	2,175,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	15,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	2650	2650	2650	2650	1,450
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	60,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1785	1785	1785	1785	730
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	2,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.06	1.1	1.06	1.1	977,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	805	810	805	805	73,540
Ipeople Inc.	3.75	3.75	3.55	3.7	48,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.05	3.1	2,275,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1600	1620	1600	1615	220,680
Ivantage Corp.	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	500,000
Philweb Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	3,100,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.5	15.5	15.5	15.5	5,900
Manila Electric Co. B	23	23.25	22.75	22.75	183,000
Manila Water Co., Inc.	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.6	649,000
Petron Corp.	3.1	3.15	3.1	3.15	289,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	60,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	58,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	7.9	8	7.9	8	547,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.6	0.65	0.6	0.65	230,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	6,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.57	0.59	0.57	0.59	60,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.35	3.4	3.35	3.4	188,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	13,900
Jollibee Foods Corp.	30.5	30.5	30	30	32,100
San Miguel Corp. A	58.5	59	58.5	59	64,100
San Miguel Corp. B	92	92	91	92	11,400
Vitarich Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Asia Amalgamated Holdings	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	100,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.009	0.0095	0.009	0.0095	3,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	7,000,000
Ayala Corp.	332.5	335	332.5	332.5	106,480
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.9	4.95	4.85	4.9	1,022,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.029	0.03	0.029	0.029	5,600,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.96	2	1.96	2	215,000
APC Group Inc.	0.25	0.27	0.25	0.26	1,930,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	50,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.08	1.12	1.06	1.1	4,195,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	40,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	100,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.26	0.28	0.26	0.28	130,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	145,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	100,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	8	8	8	8	156,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	47	48	47	47.5	365,400
Global Equities Inc.	0.0775	0.0775	0.07	0.0725	23,200,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.04	1.04	1	1	397,000
Ionics Inc.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	7,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	63,000
Marsteel Cons., Inc. B	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	1,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.4	1.42	1.4	1.42	1,396,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	500,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	9,920,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	20,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	550,000
SM Investments Corp.	252.5	255	252.5	255	59,730
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.18	0.19	0.18	0.185	1,990,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	40,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	200,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	30,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	1.08	1.12	1.08	1.1	4,244,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	400,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	202,400
ATR Fin. Corp. - Warrants	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	10,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	800
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,500
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	3,500
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,200
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7.1	7.2	7.1	7.2	14,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.7	7.7	7.6	7.7	2,725,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	300,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	1,330,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.205	0.205	0.2	0.2	120,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	3,260,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.44	1.46	1.44	1.46	972,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.24	0.24	0.235	0.235	20,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	200,000
SM Development Corp.	1.44	1.46	1.4	1.42	166,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.8	7.9	7.7	7.7	9,139,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	31,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.7	5.8	5.6	5.6	374,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.36	0.37	0.36	0.37	27,000,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.38	10,660,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	1,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.021	0.022	0.021	0.022	148,500,000
Omico Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	193,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.97	0.98	0.97	0.98	2,310,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.04	1.12	1.04	1.12	3,550,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	20,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	600,000
OIL					
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	25,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.14	0.145	0.14	0.145	790,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	300,000

DISCLOSURES

ELECTED directors of **International Exchange Bank** were Walter W. Brown, Enrique M. Herbosa, Gerardo Lanuza Jr., Enrique K. Razon Jr., Dante G. Santos, Ramon Y. Sy, Wilson L. Sy, Wilfrido C. Tecson, Ben C. Tiu, Ruben C. Tiu and Gregorio T. Yu.

* * *

FORTUNE Cement Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July 25, 9 a.m. at the Mandarin Oriental Manila, Makati Avenue, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of June 25 are entitled to notice and vote at the meeting.

* * *

CITYSTATE Savings Bank disclosed that the BSP has approved the company's application for three new branches.

* * *

IPVG Corp. moved the record date of its aforesaid annual stockholders' meeting from July 5 to July 1.

* * *

ELECTED directors of the **Philippine Bank of Communications** were Luy Kim Guan, Chung Tiong Tay, Enrique T. Luy, Ralph Nubla Jr., Carmelo Maria Luza Bautista, Henry Y. Uy, Carlos G. Chung, Bi Yong So Chungunco, Ernesto T. Luy, Edwin T. Luy, Johnny O. Cobankiat, J. Antonio M. Quila, Ruben D. Almendras, Renato H. Peronilla and Jose Luis S. Javier.

Compiled by Erika A. Sarmiento, PDI Research

CURRENCIES

June 22, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.823316	1.000000	55.6360
Japan	Yen	0.007531	0.009147	0.5089
United Kingdom	Pound	1.502058	1.824400	101.5023
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.105890	0.128614	7.1556
Switzerland	Franc	0.647465	0.786411	43.7528
Canada	Dollar	0.666437	0.809454	45.0348
Singapore	Dollar	0.491826	0.597372	33.2354
Australia	Dollar	0.638824	0.775916	43.1689
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.183921	2.652590	147.5795
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.219551	0.266667	14.8363
Brunei	Dollar	0.490361	0.595593	33.1364
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000104	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.020032	0.024331	1.3537
UAE	Dirham	0.224172	0.272279	15.1485
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.214600	67.5755
Argentina	Peso	0.286870	0.348432	19.3854
Brazil	Real	0.345351	0.419463	23.3372
Denmark	Kroner	0.134300	0.163121	9.0754
India	Rupee	0.018914	0.022973	1.2781
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.216691	0.263193	14.6430
Mexico	New Peso	0.076107	0.092439	5.1429
New Zealand	Dollar	0.588503	0.714796	39.7684
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013791	0.016750	0.9319
South Africa	Rand	0.123019	0.149419	8.3131
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OUTSIDE SUBIC

Gov't sets lifting of tax perks given to ecozone firms

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT is set to lift the fiscal incentives enjoyed by Clark and John Hay economic zone locators, which were previously lured to invest with the promise of being granted tax and duty perks.

The Department of Finance has approved a revenue regulation containing a provision clarifying that the fiscal incentives enjoyed by locators in the Subic economic zone do not extend to enterprises in other economic zones. Therefore, enterprises in Clark and John Hay will no longer be granted tax incentives.

The regulation will be issued and made publicly known by the Bureau of Internal Revenue in the next few days.

The DOF and the BIR came up with the revenue regulation to abide by an earlier Supreme Court ruling, which stated that the tax incentives granted under RA 7227 were exclusive to enterprises located in the Subic ecozone.

RA 7227 states that economic zone locators in Subic are only required to pay a 5-percent gross income tax in lieu of all other taxes, and are to enjoy duty-free importation of raw materials and capital equipment.

The Supreme Court gave reason for the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs to collect multimillion-pesos in back taxes and duties from Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CJHDevCo). The Camp John Hay developer had contested the collection of the taxes and duties, stressing that the fiscal incentives were part of its agreement with the BCDA, which was then looking for a firm to develop the camp in Baguio.

BCDA and CJHDevCo are also in dispute over some P2 billion worth of unpaid rental fees of the latter, which said it would only service its rent if the BCDA would abide by the terms of the agreement regarding the granting of fiscal incentives.

The DOF said the Supreme Court ruling did not only extend to Camp John Hay locators, but also to other locators outside Subic. The revenue regulation will therefore clarify that economic zone locators outside Subic, such as those from Clark and John Hay, are not entitled to tax and duty perks.

The DOF, admitting that economic zone locators were lured to do business in the country with the promise of fiscal incentives, said it was now pushing for a law that will grant tax and duty perks to other economic zone locators aside from those in Subic.

But while Congress has yet to legislate a law granting uniform tax incentives to all economic zone locators, a finance official said, the government should observe the Supreme Court ruling, and therefore should lift the incentives enjoyed by non-Subic locators.

Peso steady at 55.645:$1 . . .

From page B1

ic reforms.

In a commentary dated June 21, Lorenzo said the reforms were even more made urgent by the runaway crude oil prices.

"It is only by strengthening the internal economic structure that the domestic economy will be able to lessen the impact of negative external developments," she said.

"It is this need for continuing economic reform that is endangered by the distraction provided by the latest political brouhaha," she added.

While the most urgent economic reform measures had been passed--those dealing with raising and improving government's revenue generation capacity—she said there were other crucial measures that were still on queue such as ensuring the proper deregulation of the power sector or the development of the capital markets.

"It will certainly be the case that such distraction leading to delays in the passage of vital laws is the penalty that will be paid for all these political scandals," she said.

Without the political noise that is driving up the risk premium, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Officer-in-Charge Amando Tetangco Jr. had said the local currency should be trading back to the 54:$1 level or where it was before all the political tension started.

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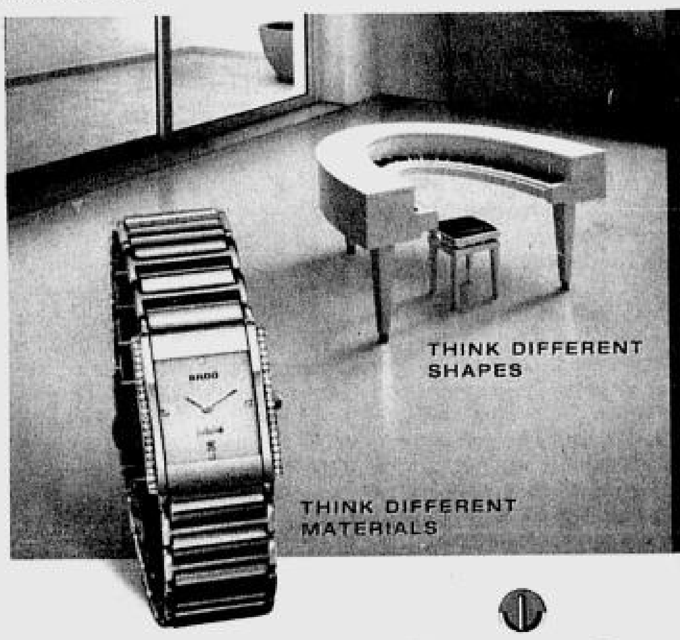

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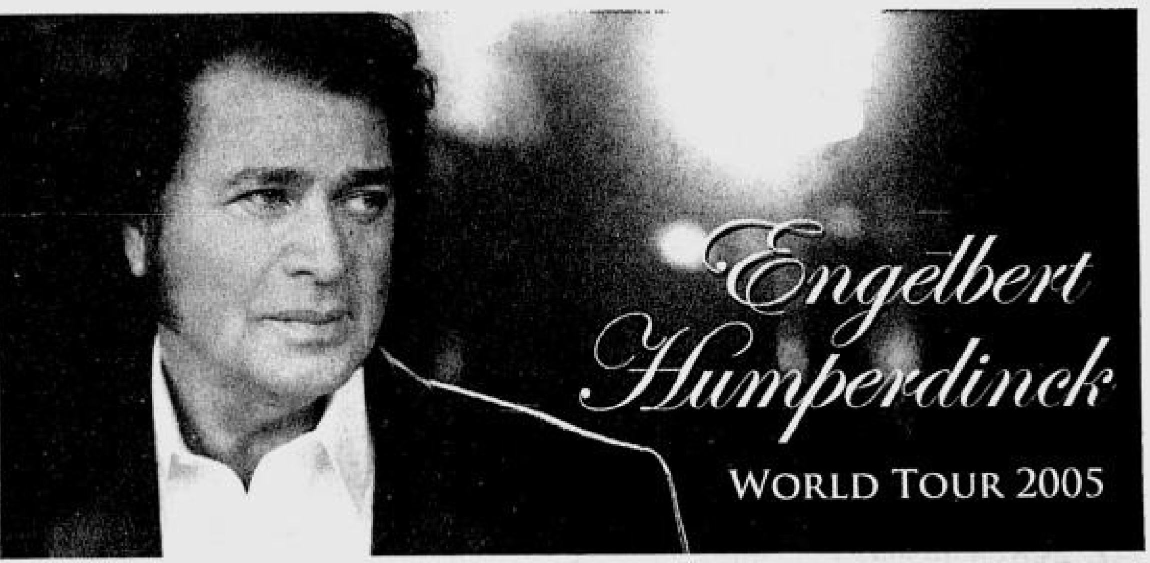

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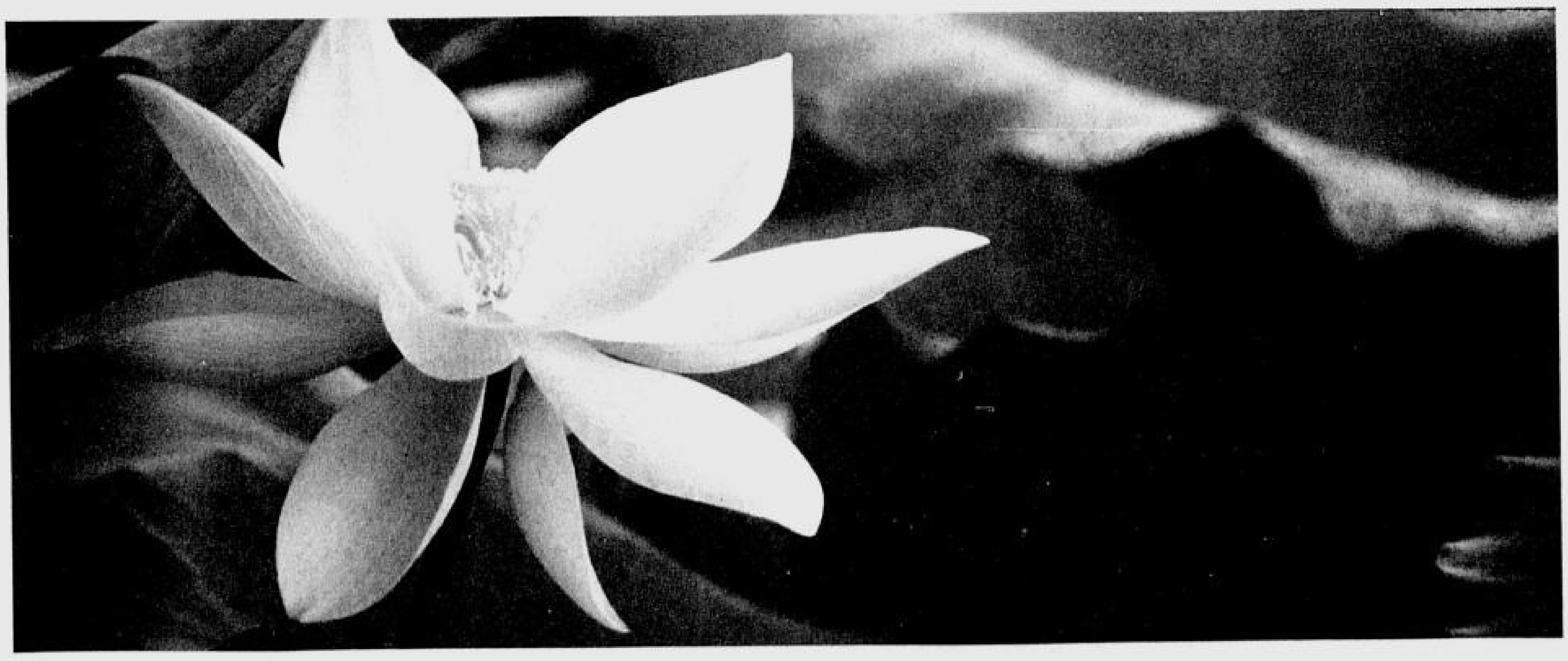

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
Collection District II - B
MANILA INTERNATIONAL CONTAINER PORT

June 20, 2005

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 2601 to 2610 of the TCCP, as amended, in relation to CMO 5-2003 dated March 17, 2003, and CMO 18-2003 dated 25 July 2003, there will be a Public Auction Sale to be conducted by this Port on **June 30, 2005 at 2:30 P.M.**, to be held at the 2nd Floor, MICP Building, North Harbor, Isla Puling Bato, Tondo, Manila, the herein described articles in lot. Said articles shall be available for viewing on **June 29, 2005**.

Lot No. 014-05	F. PAAS TRADING/MITSUI LINES 3rd Advertisement 'As Is Where Is'	80 boxes (48 dos./24 doz./box Facial Cream (renowned, mana cream) 2 bxs., 30 packs Dryfood (crispy squid) 2 bales, 36 packs, 3 prs./pack assorted ladies' slippers/sandals 1 bx., 16 btls. fish sauce, spicy taramind 1 bx. 48 pcs. milk soap, 24 pcs. anti-perspirant deodorant cream (dorlene) 1 bx. hair spa, foot cream, milky lotion 1 bx., 12 pcs./bx. hair spa (A Bonne) 1 bx., 12 pcs. salt solution 1 bale, 9 packs, 6 prs./pack ladies shoes (brown boots) 2 bales, 10 packs, 6 prs./pack assorted ladies' slippers 3 bxs., 6 packs, 18 pcs./pack rectangular ceramic plate 4 plastic bxs. personal effects 1 bx., 4 pcs. half body mannequins 1 bale, 200 pcs. assorted key chains 1 bale, 30 pcs. assorted ladies' blouses 2 bales, 25 pcs. assorted comforter 1 bale, 20 packs assorted bed sheets 1 bx., 20 packs feeding bottle 1 bx., 2 pcs., electric display 15 bales, 72 prs./bale assorted ladies' slippers/sandals 2 bxs. assorted ladies' accessories/bags 2 bales, 86 pcs. ladies' RTW 2 bxs., 65 btls./bx. fabric softener 20 bxs., 48 pcs./bx. YOKO milk soap 1 bale, 50 pcs. assorted childrens' wear 1 bale, 10 pcs. white pillow (standard size) 2 bales, 100 prs. Assorted ladies' slippers 12 pkgs., 10 pcs. plastic tray 1 bx., 35 pcs. baby gift set 3 bales assorted ladies' shirt 6 bales, 374 prs. assorted sandals/slippers 2 bales, 50 pcs. assorted fabrics (sarong) 3 bales, 20 pcs./bale assorted character stuff toy 2 bales, 20 bdls., 5 pcs./bdl. men's maong pants 1 bx. assorted ladies' wallets/bags 2 bales, 130 pcs. men's Polo shirt
Floor Price: Php575,978.40		LocatioN: ICTSI CY, Contr. No. CAXU-9727782
Lot No. 015-05	DR. MIGUEL R. CORNEJO R.A. 7651 3rd Advertisement 'As Is Where Is'	1 unit used Ford Winstar LX VIN No. 2FMDA51425BC38992
Floor Price: Php2,169,967.20		Location: ICTSI CY, Contr. No. APLS-2906083

Basic Guidelines:

1. File the duly accomplished Registration Form (name, address, TIN and other relevant circumstances to be indicated).
2. Php2,000.00 Registration Fee (Non-Refundable).
3. Php100,000.00 Cash Bond (Refundable).
4. The highest bidder shall be required to pay 50% of the bid price either in cash and/or Manager's Check immediately and the balance of 50% shall be paid within the next business day.
5. After the second failed bidding, a particular lot may be offered to all qualified bidders for negotiated sale, subject to compliance of the requirements under Section IV-J of CMO 5-2003.
6. Payment by Cashier's/Manager's Checks to the BOC/MICP shall bear the following:
   a. Pay to the order of Land Bank of the Philippines - BOC MICP E.O.
   b. For credit of the Bureau of Customs.
   c. For the account of:

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For further details, please contact Mr. Isidro A. Pre, Chief, Auction & Cargo Disposal Division, MICP, Tel. No. 247-09-77.

(Sgd.) Atty. **CARLOS T. SO**
District Collector of Customs

(PDI – June 23, 2005)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

ANNOUNCEMENT OF BIDDING

The National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce that it will be conducting a bidding on **July 12, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.** at the FOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER (FDC) Auditorium, FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila, to all interested rice suppliers for the supply of maximum **92,000 MT**, long grain white rice, non-iron fortified, 15% and 25% brokens, in fifty (50) kilograms net each in polypropylene bags suitable for rice export with NFA markings to be loaded in bulk carrier/s with an appropriated budget from corporate resources of Php 1.65 B. Source countries shall be Thailand, Vietnam, China, Pakistan, Australia and/or U.S.A. A Maximum of 50,000 MT each shall be awarded in case of Pakistan, Australia and/or U.S.A. origin.

All interested suppliers are required to submit quotations for all specifications on CFR FO basis, Documents Against Acceptance (D/A) with a tenor of one hundred twenty (120) days from receipt by NFA of the complete set of original documents for payment and on the basis of mandatory countertrade and or countertrade performed on best effort. Otherwise, bids shall be considered non-responsive.

Arrival period shall be **NLT August 31, 2005.**

Government suppliers and private suppliers who have delivered to the NFA within the last two (2) years (2003/2004) and do not have a bad track record may be awarded the following maximum volume:

SUPPLIER	VOLUME (MT)
Government (with good track record)	92,000
Private (with good track record)	25,000
Government/private (without track record)	15,000

However, suppliers and/or source companies with pending import-related accounts/liability prior 2003 are considered to have bad track records and are not allowed to participate in the bid.

Minimum volume to be offered per supplier shall be 10,000 MT per specification. Vessels to be utilized should have a maximum load capacity of 15,000 MT.

All bidders are required to post a bid bond equivalent to 10% of the highest value of offered quantity in the form of cashier's/manager's check issued by a reputable bank in Metro Manila or an irrevocable stand-by Letter of Credit issued by a reputable commercial bank or in the case of an irrevocable stand-by L/C issued by a foreign bank, the same shall be confirmed by a reputable local bank.

Winning bidders are required to submit a performance bond equivalent to 10% of the value of the awarded quantity within three (3) banking days after receipt of the notice of award in the form cashier's/manager's check issued by a reputable bank in Metro Manila or an irrevocable stand-by Letter of Credit issued by a reputable commercial bank or in the case of an irrevocable stand-by L/C issued by a foreign bank, the same shall be confirmed by a reputable local bank. Bid bond can be converted to performance bond.

List of Eligibility Requirements and Instructions to bidders may be secured starting **June 17, 2005** thru MR. TOMAS R. ESCAREZ, Assistant Department Manager and MR. NESTOR U. PUANGCO, Division Chief III, Directorate for Marketing Operations, 5th Floor, NFA, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City with telephone numbers 712-1564; 742-4140; 743-8696; 711-7433; 740-1977; 712-1708; and 712-1572.

The terms of reference and offer sheets will be available from **June 17 to July 8, 2005** (8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.) upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P7,500.00.

The pre-bidding conference will be held on **June 28, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.** at the FOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER (FDC) Auditorium, FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila.

Submission of bids will be on **July 12, 2005 between 8:00 a.m. to 9:55 a.m.** at the FOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER (FDC) Auditorium, FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila. Opening of bids will start exactly at **10:00 a.m.**

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals, to waive any required formality or defect therein and may accept the bid/s which is deemed most advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) **JESSUP P. NAVARRO**
Deputy Administrator and
Chairman, BAC

(PDI - June 16 & 23, 2005)

Meralco to start final phase of ₱30-B refund plan in July

By Abigail L. Ho

AFTER several months of delay, the Lopez-led Manila Electric Co. may finally start implementing the last phase of its P30-billion refund scheme in July.

Customers who are part of the first tranche of the last phase of the refund scheme may choose between the credit-to-bill option and the post-dated check option, said Leonardo Mabale, head of Meralco's refund management task force.

Those who opted for the credit-to-bill option would see their rebates reflected in their July bills, Mabale yesterday said during a telephone interview.

Those who chose the post-dated check option would be able to get their checks by September, Mabale added.

Customers entitled to rebates, however, would have to submit all documentary requirements before their refunds could be processed.

But before Meralco could actually start giving the rebates under Phase 4 of the refund scheme, Mabale said the distribution utility would still have to wait for the Bureau of Internal Revenue's issuance of a revenue memorandum order (RMO) detailing how the firm should withhold creditable income taxes from the refunds.

The BIR earlier in the year issued an order for Meralco to withhold a 25-percent creditable income tax on Phase 4 customers with active accounts and 32 percent on customers with terminated accounts.

Despite the general order, Mabale said Meralco still had to wait for the RMO as this would contain the specifics of the tax-withholding process.

He said that the BIR last week presented a draft RMO to Meralco, stating similar terms contained in the original order.

Under the draft RMO, he said, customers availing themselves of the refund should have the appropriate tax identification numbers (TIN). As customers falling under the last phase of the refund scheme were mostly commercial and industrial entities, their business registration names should also match the names corresponding to the given TIN.

The draft RMO likewise mapped out details on which customers were exempted from the withholding of the creditable income taxes, as well as how Meralco should handle the exemptions, he said.

"Most customers that have exemptions have the proper documents to prove that they're exempted," he said. "They have to go back to the BIR to get the certified true copy of those documents. For government entities, they will most likely be entitled to an automatic exemption."

He said the BIR would issue the final RMO within the month.

PPA Q1 net hits ₱677M

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PHILIPPINE Ports Authority has managed to increase its profits by 4 percent to P677.6 million in the first quarter, as against the P650 million posted the same time a year ago, despite softer take-up from cargo vessels that docked on government-run ports.

Aida Dizon, PPA assistant general manager for finance, said that the maritime agency's continuing austerity measures proved vital in softening the impact of a 2.8-percent decline in revenue from cargo vessels.

Dizon suspected that there were less cargo vessels that docked during the first quarter due to slower economic activity.

The agency's expenses reached only P647 million against P651 million a year ago.

Revenue of the state-run seaport operator and regulator during the first three months stood at P1.32 billion, up only 1.75 percent from the P1.302 billion posted during the same period in 2004.

The bulk of the revenue still came from the Manila ports. It accounted for about 60 percent of the agency's total collections.

The agency is tasked to operate government-owned ports, help regulate the maritime industry and put up more ports to improve the flow of goods and services.

The agency is one of the government's biggest revenue earners in terms of fees that it collects from vessels docking in local ports, as well as from private port operators.

The PPA registered a net income of P1.8 billion in 2004 on revenue of P5.58 billion and P3.42 billion in expenses. Part of the expenses are used to pay interest on loans. The PPA has P7.9 billion in outstanding obligations.

Cebu seismic survey yields viable gas, oil prospects

FORUM Energy Plc, the joint venture firm of Canada's Forum Energy Corp. and the United Kingdom's Sterling Energy Plc, recently completed a 2D seismic survey across Tanon Strait in Cebu, an area believed to contain "promising oil and gas prospects."

According to a statement posted on the company's official website, Forum Energy culled new data from its survey of 310 kilometers of Tanon Strait, which is covered by Service Contract 40.

Forum has a 67-percent stake in the project.

Based on earlier estimates made by independent geo-scientific consultancy firm PGS Reservoir Ltd., structures within the area had combined potential reserves of 350 million barrels of oil.

The new 2D seismic data gathered from the recently completed survey would be processed by British firm Spectrum Energy over the next three months.

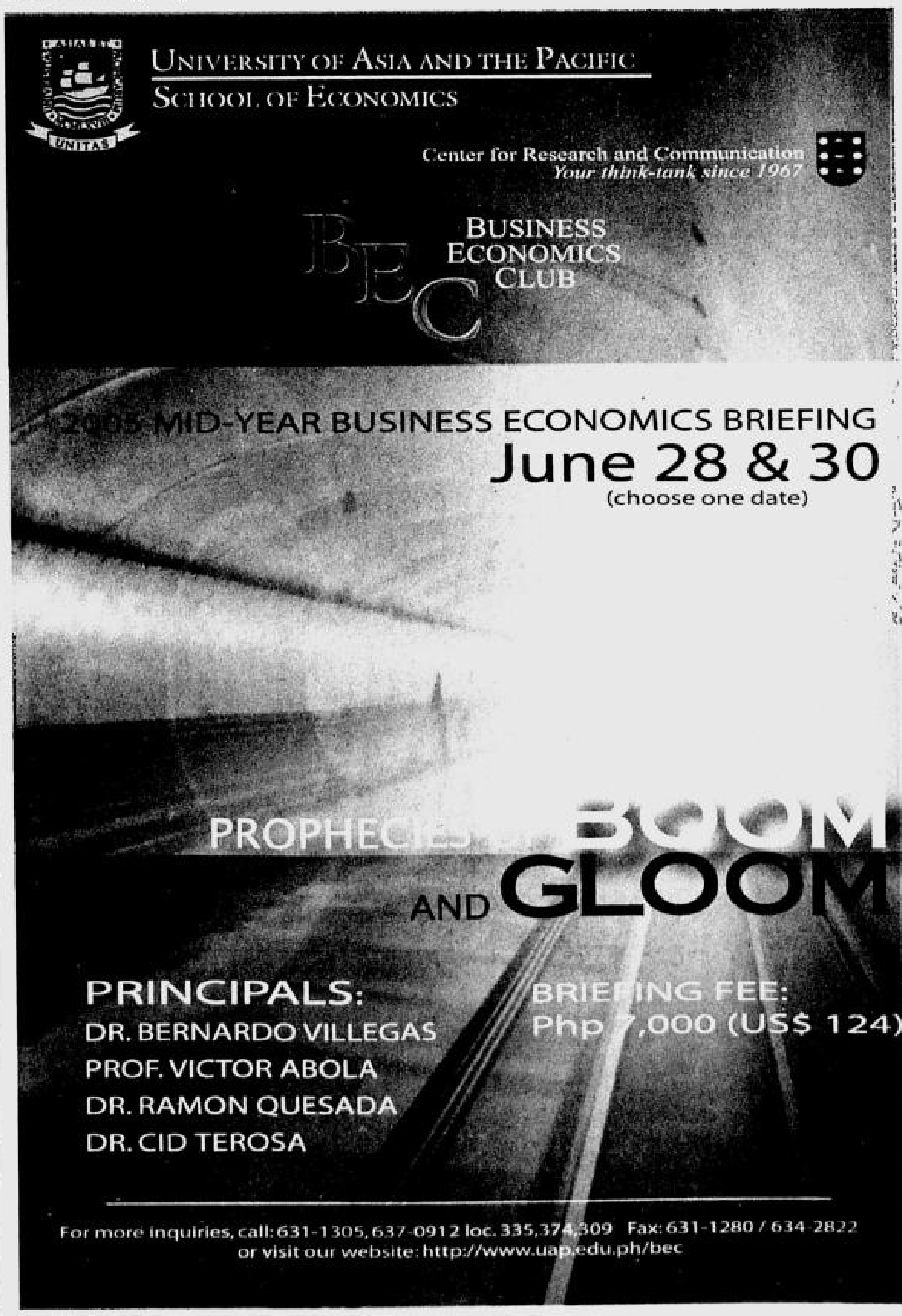
Forum, represented by stockbrokers Noble & Co. Ltd., recently raised £3.4 million (around $6.2 million) in an institutional placement, giving the new investors a 20-percent share in the company, and raising the value of the firm to more than £17 million (around $30.8 million) at the pre-listing stage.

The company is looking at raising another $27 million in additional funds to develop oil, gas and coal resources in the country by listing with the Alternative Investment Market of the London Stock Exchange.

"We have a strong portfolio of forthcoming production and exploration interests in the Philippines, and look forward to becoming a key player in the country's increasingly important energy sector," said David Robinson, Forum chief executive.

The company's Philippine assets include the offshore Reed Bank license, Geophysical Survey and Exploration Contract (Gsec) 101, which contains the Sampaguita gas find.

It also has a 67-percent interest in the Libertad onshore gas find in Cebu, as well as two coal operating contracts in Central and Southern Cebu with proven and probable reserves of 4.9 million tons. *Abigail L. Ho*



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$64M for Metro Manila's sewers

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE WORLD Bank has approved a $64-million loan to improve Metro Manila's sewerage system through the Manila Third Sewerage Project.

The borrower is the state-owned Land Bank of the Philippines. It would relend the proceeds to the Ayalas' water utility Manila Water Co. that would, in turn, implement the project.

"This project demonstrates effective private-public partnership for improved sanitation services ... It will not just help mitigate the environmental impacts of water pollution, but also improve the lives of poor Filipinos by improving access to sewerage and sanitation services, among others," said Joachim von Amsberg, World Bank Philippines country director.

Aside from increasing sewerage coverage and sanitation services in the East concession area, the project also hopes to reduce water-borne pollution in Metro Manila, as well as in Laguna de Bay and Manila Bay.

The project also seeks to lessen the risks of the community coming into contact with raw wastewater, the World Bank said.

The WB said the project was in support of the government's goal of decreasing water pollution and damage to the environment and the people's health, as stipulated in the 2004 Clean Water Act, by increasing sewerage coverage from about 8 percent to 30 percent, and sanitation services to 100 percent in the east concession area.

In Metro Manila, about 15 percent of the population is connected to a sewerage system, although only half is provided with a treatment facility.

Most residents rely on drains, many of which are open, that receive the waste from their septic tanks.

Crude hovers at $59/barrel ahead of US data

CHINESE shoppers check out bargain shoes at a department store in Beijing. Shoes are the latest trade spat fomenting between the world's seventh-largest economy and developed nations, which fear a growing tide of imports from low-cost China could deal a fatal blow to manufacturing sectors and spark massive layoffs. REUTERS

SINGAPORE—The price of crude oil stayed flat Wednesday, ahead of key data from the US Department of Energy, hours after it touched a new high and nearly reached the psychologically important $60 a barrel threshold.

Mid-afternoon in Singapore, August crude on the Nymex was up a cent to $59.04 a barrel, partly helped by news of an averted strike in Norway, the world's third-largest exporter.

Heating oil meanwhile rose a tad to $1.6308 a gallon while gasoline dipped to $1.6225 a gallon.

Overnight, traders had taken profit from July delivery crude which reached $59.70 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange in floor trade overnight.

The contract expired Tuesday and closed at $58.90.

"We've seen the price push high in a short space of time and there was profit-taking in the last day but sentiment is still very bullish," said ANZ Bank energy analyst Daniel Hynes from Melbourne, Australia.

"I expect to see prices start to push a bit higher once these funds have taken profit."

Crude futures are around 50 percent higher than a year ago, but would have to surpass $90 to reach the all-time inflated adjusted record set in 1980.

Later Wednesday, the US Department of Energy will release its midweek petroleum inventories snapshot, a key market mover.

Traders look for consumption and supply clues out of the world's largest energy consumer.

Analysts said earlier that the onset of summer would send prices higher as US motorists take to the road.

Analysts expect another decline in crude stocks, the fourth draw in five weeks, but builds in petroleum product stocks.

"There isn't much in the market than can bring prices down right now," Hynes added.

"There's no disguising the fact that supply continues to run ahead of demand that's why we're getting this stock buildup."

In Norway, last-gasp negotiations succeeded in averting an offshore platform strike that could have cut Norwegian oil production by 1 million barrels a day—a third of the country's daily production.

The agreement between the Lederne, a union representing those with leadership jobs, and the Norwegian Oil Industry Association came 90 minutes before a midnight local time strike deadline after two days of talks.

Norway is the world's third-largest oil exporter, after Saudi Arabia and Russia.

But while strike action was avoided in Norway, markets were also watching for possible unrest in Nigeria that could derail exports from Africa's largest producer.

A major ethnic organization in southern Nigeria said it was planning a three-day rally demanding a greater share of oil wealth for producing regions, and warned oil companies they should shut down during the protest. Protests are planned to take place within the next few weeks, the Ijaw Youth Council said.

The news comes just after six oil workers were kidnapped last week. The US Embassy closed briefly over the incident.

"The real kicker (for the spike) was the geopolitical issues. The Nigerian hostage situation brought it back to the front of people's minds," said Hynes.

"While geopolitical issues have long been part of the high price period, it has taken a backseat in recent months. That was a reawakening," he said referring to Nigeria.

Nigeria, the fifth-largest source of US crude, has been wracked by unrest all of 2004, and played a large part in the crude price rise last year when geopolitical events took focus. *AP*

Japan trade surplus falls

TOKYO—Japan's trade surplus in May narrowed from year-earlier levels for the fourth time in five months as exports to China slowed and higher oil prices inflated imports, government data showed on Wednesday.

The surplus last month fell to 297 billion yen ($2.74 billion), down 68.3 percent from a year earlier and nearly half the financial market's consensus forecast of 510 billion yen. On a seasonally adjusted basis, it fell 1.0 percent from April.

Exports rose only 1.4 percent from a year earlier, compared with the market's forecast of 6.0 percent, with shipments to China—now Japan's biggest trade partner and one of the main factors behind the country's economic recovery in the last several years—down 0.1 percent.

Exports to China had fallen for the first time in four years in February, but at that time economists suspected the effect of the Lunar New Year holidays. Now they are concerned that a slowdown was undeniable after a 20-percent rise last year.

"It may be that a slowdown in Chinese demand is becoming more evident," said Seiji Adachi, senior economist at Deutsche Securities.

Exports to China—which account for 13 percent of Japan's global exports, second only to 22 percent for the United States—have clearly slowed this year as Beijing sought to cool overheating in parts of its economy, denting demand for raw materials and machinery.

The gloomy exports picture casts a dark shadow over Japan's growth prospects. *Reuters*

Sony approves Stringer as CEO

TOKYO—Sony Corp. shareholders on Wednesday approved Howard Stringer as the new chief executive, the first foreigner to head the Japanese electronics and entertainment company.

A native of Wales who later acquired US citizenship, Stringer, 63, has helped make Sony's music and movie business one of the Tokyo-based company's few bright spots in recent years. He replaces Nobuyuki Idei, 67, who led Sony for a decade.

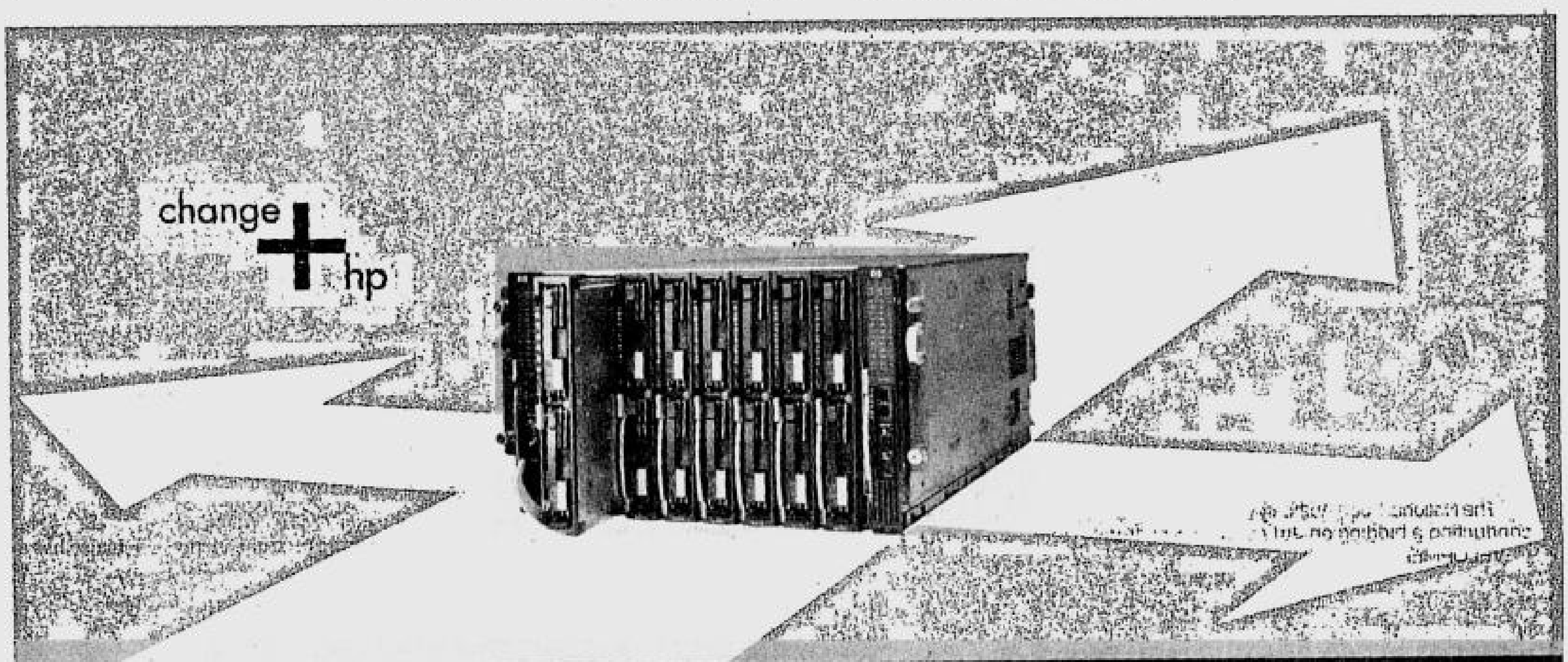
The vote to promote Stringer, who was tapped by Sony's board in March, came at a general shareholders meeting in Tokyo.

Stringer faces an enormous challenge in turning around Sony, which has been hit with losses in its consumer electronics business amid competition from cheaper Asian rivals. It has been weighed down with restructuring costs while getting beaten in key growing sectors like portable music players by the iPod from Apple Computer Inc.

Before joining Sony in 1997, Stringer had a 30-year career as a journalist, producer and executive at US television network CBS Inc. His key role at Sony would be to develop strategic links between the entertainment and electronics business, a plan that Sony has talked about for years but has never fully realized.

Foreign executives at major Japanese companies are still extremely rare. The one exception has been Brazilian-born Carlos Ghosn, chief executive at Nissan Motor Co., who has become a hero here by reviving the automaker from near-collapse to growth in the past several years.

Stringer, who was previously vice chair at Sony and chief executive of Sony Corp. of America, speaks no Japanese. He took US citizenship in 1985, becoming a dual British-American national. He will continue to live in New York, where he now resides, traveling between the United States and Japan, Sony said. *AP*



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Emergency services exclusively for Globe G-Plan subscribers

ACCIDENTS happen in a split second and it is a known fact that swift and timely actions make the difference between life and death. In times of crisis, the mobile phone is the first tool used to activate a medical rescue mission. Innovation leader Globe Handyphone understands the sense of urgency and lasting family ties of its clientele, introducing another life-enhancing service exclusive to G-Plan subscribers: mobile medical emergency services.

Presented in partnership with Lifeline Arrows - the first medical emergency service in the country - this service gives G-Plan subscribers access to the Lifeline Arrows Emergency Quick Response team 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Virtually the Philippine version of the 911 emergency response unit, Lifeline EQR is supported by state-of-the-art ambulances and equipment, highly trained emergency crew, paramedics and medical specialists, as well as a trusted network of partner hospitals.

Annual membership to Lifeline Arrows EQR is available to G-Plan subscribers and their families at specially discounted yearly subscriptions of P99 for individuals and P165 for families. To enroll, all a subscriber has to do is send "LIFELINE REG Full Name/Mailing Address/Package (I for individual, G for Group)" to 2345 and download the Lifeline picture message. Once enrolled, members receive such benefits as medical advisories, free emergency use of ambulances and life-saving equipment and supplies, full endorsement to partner hospitals, and discounts to other Lifeline Arrow services such as airlift and medical evacuation, inter-facility transfers, and home care. The Lifeline Arrows EQR team services Metro Manila and selected areas of Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna and Rizal. For emergency assistance, simply contact the emergency hotline at (02)16-911 or text LIFELINE to 2345 for more information about this service.

With such timely and relevant services as Lifeline Arrows EQR, it's no surprise that more prefer G-Plan. To find out more about how G-Plan can make great things possible for you, simply visit any Globe Business Center or Hub.

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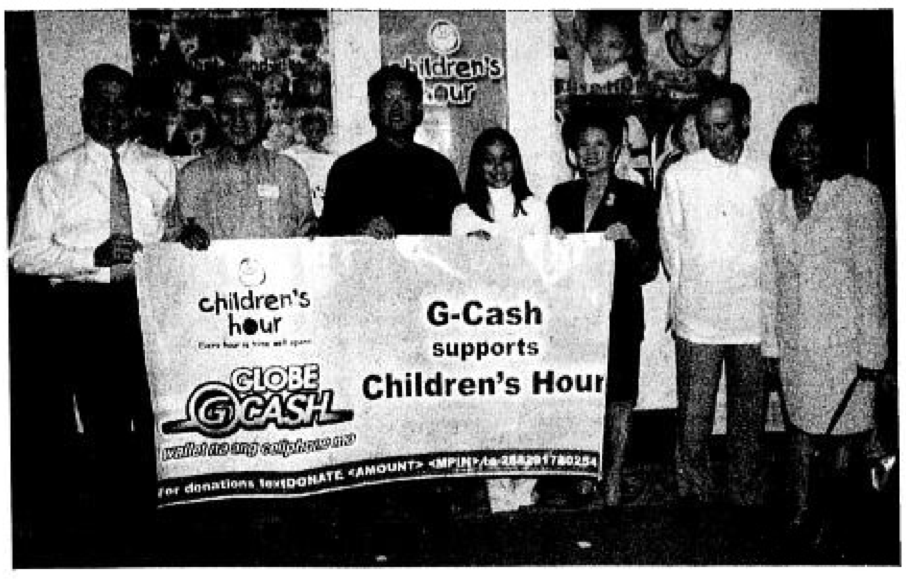
GLOBE G Plan offers Lifeline Arrows' exclusive medical emergency services for its subscribers at special membership packages.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GLOBE G-CASH TURNS OVER MOBILE PLEDGES TO CHILDREN'S HOUR

The smallest gestures make a world of difference in the life of a child in need: a comforting hug, an hour's salary, a single text message. In a recent ceremony held at the Hotel Intercontinental Manila, G-Xchange Inc representatives turned over the initial proceeds of a G-Cash mobile donation drive to the Children's Hour Foundation, which encourages the donation of an hour's earnings in support of the development and welfare of the Filipino child. Globe and TM subscribers raised over P200,000 by texting in G-Cash mobile pledges since the start of the year. To make a pledge, simply text DONATE <AMOUNT> <MPIN> to 28829178025419 and the corresponding amount will be deducted from the subscriber's G-Cash mobile wallet. Present at the turnover ceremony were (from left): Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II, trustee, Children's Hour; Ambassador Bienvenido A. Tan, Jr., chair; Glenn Benl Dy, business development head, G-Xchange Inc; Kristine Tomalon, account executive Stratworks Inc; and Ambassador Narcisa Escaler, chair, Resource Mobilization Committee.

Lowe wins 2004 Ad of the Year

LOWE Manila dominated the Ad of the Year category for Television in the 4As Creative Guild Awards 2004 held on Monday, June 7. Its "Fairy" TV commercial for Fita Biscuits ran off with the plum Gold prize while its "Soldiers" TV commercial for the same brand won the Bronze. Both these ads likewise performed well in international advertising competitions with "Fairy" winning a Bronze in the 2003 Adfest in Thailand and "Soldiers" achieving finalist status in the same competition in 2004. Fita is a product of Monde MY San. "These wins are a combined effort of both agency and client. Without an enabling client, it is difficult for an agency to do great work", says Raul Castro, VP-executive creative director of Lowe.

The Ad of the Year awards was a fitting culmination to the very First Creative Summit, a gathering of this country's best creative ad minds to discuss what it will take for Philippine creativity to take its rightful place in the world stage. As Bing Beltran, incoming president of the Guild said, "The Ad of the Year awards is proof positive that our passion for creative excellence burns fiercely and an indication that we haven't lost our drive to make our presence felt internationally."

Lowe Manila is part of Lowe Worldwide & Partners, a multinational advertising agency with 160 offices in 84 countries. It is among the Philippines' top 5 advertising agencies.

GIGGLES BABY WIPES RECEIVES AWARD

Giggles Baby Wipes was recently awarded the Most Outstanding Baby Wipes Brand in the recently held Philippine Marketing Excellence Awards in recognition of its outstanding market performance leading towards market dominance, goodwill, high-level customer confidence and market acceptability. Taken during the ceremony held at the Westin Philippine Plaza, photo shows (from left): Felix Lao Jr, PhD, awards committee chair; Lily Ko, VP of Gentro Phils Inc; Harry Ko, president of Gentro Phils Inc; Wilson Ang, sales manager of Gentro Phils Inc; Rica Peralejo and Jose Jesus Roces, president of Asia Pacific Marketing Federation. Giggles Baby Wipes, a high quality yet affordable brand exclusively distributed by Gentro Phils Inc is available at SM, Watson's, SM Baby Company, Robinsons, Big R, Landmark, Puregold, Isetann, Ever, Cash & Carry, Shop Wise and other leading supermarkets and department stores nationwide.

G-Cash Load now more affordable

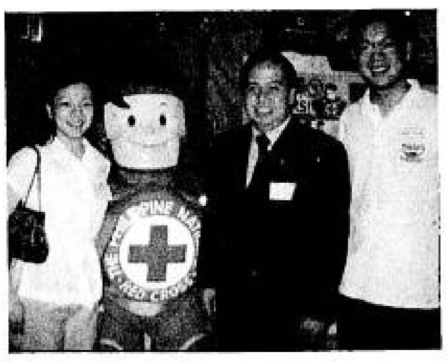
G-CASH users can now load their own or somebody else's pre-paid phones for as low as P25 through Globe's enhanced G-Cash Load service. Load denominations now available are P25, P50, P75, P100, P125, P150, P300 and P500. This is to suit the budget of millions of Globe subscribers nationwide who opt to enjoy the convenience of converting their G-Cash credits into instant prepaid load. Being a truly functional mobile wallet G-Cash is easily the most versatile method of doing wireless cash transactions anywhere in the country. Apart from the convenience of making an instant and affordable wireless reload, Globe subscribers also enjoy a 5 percent G-Cash bonus every time they avail of the service. It means earning G-Cash credits each time they convert their G-Cash into load thus extending the purchasing power of their mobile wallet. To load own prepaid account using G-Cash, simply text LOAD <space> <amount> <space> < MPIN> and send it to 2882. To reload a friend's Globe or Touch Mobile phone, text LOAD <space> <amount> <space> <sender's MPIN> and send it to 2882+ the ten digit mobile number of the recipient. Reloading your prepaid phone via G-Cash has indeed never been this easy and affordable. For more information about G-Cash Load, text INFO LOAD to 2882 for only P1 per text.

ABAP HOLDS INDUCTION PARTY

The Association of Ballet Academies Philippines (Abap) recently had their induction party at the Astoria Plaza Hotel, at J. Escriva Drive, Ortigas Business District, Pasig City. The new board of trustees and administrative body for 2005 are: president - Dr. Pamela Ortiz-Bondoc; vice president - Amelia Yulo; secretary - Jan Manlapig; treasurer - Bella Bengco, and PRO - Valla Damian. Special guests of honor of the affair were script writer and director, Father James B. Reuter, SJ, honorary member and dance aficionado Cora Iñigo, dance critic and University of the Philippines Dance Major's artistic director Steve Villaruz, and Ballet Philippines' artistic director Augustus Damian III. The organization is a non-profit group whose aim is to upgrade the standard of classical ballet in the Philippines while enhancing unity, camaraderie, and concern among ballet directors and academies through festivals, workshops, seminars, tours, and other related activities. Abap is thus far, the only and longest existing organization of Dance Conservatoires in the country.

A MEGA NIGHT FOR A CAUSE

It was a night worth remembering at the Philippine National Red Cross dinner at the Fort when all of its valuable partners like the Mega Fishing Corp, Smart Communications Inc and Anvil Business Club graced the evening, dining with their partners for various humanitarian causes. Photo shows (from left): Mega Fishing Corp VP Michelle Tiu Lim Chan, Senator Richard J. Gordon, and Mega Fishing Corp VP-sales and operations Mark Tiu Lim.



American hospitals to interview nurses for US opportunities

NURSING managers and supervisors from nine major US medical facilities will be in Manila, later this month vying for an opportunity to attract HCCA nurses to their hospitals. An additional four from Arizona and California will be also competing for the nurses through long distance calls during the event. This was disclosed recently by Joseph Gilinsky, vice-president and managing director of HCCA International, a US-based Nurse Staffing Management Company.

Over 170 HCCA International nurses were asked to choose their top five HCCA hospitals to interview. The hospitals reciprocated with their own choices. Most of the nurses will meet with a minimum of two of their favorite facilities. In the event of multiple offers from the facilities, the nurse will have the last word as to where he or she will work. The nurse also has the option to decline all offers and select from non-visiting and future HCCA hospitals.

"This is not a recruitment activity," Gilinksy emphasized, "It is basically a reward for HCCA nurses who have worked hard to prepare for their US deployment, including through retrogression when it was thought US immigrant visas might not be available for several years. We continued processing and investing in our nurses and they remained loyal and active. Now, many will travel to the United States, within the next 30-360 days. It is also a reward for our hospitals who are thrilled with the quality of the nurses' preparation and availability. It is very exciting for all concerned," he said.

In addition to talking with nurses from across the Philippines, the visiting medical facilities will also interview HCCA nurses, mostly Filipinos, located in Singapore, the UAE, UK and Ireland, by telephone from Manila.

Also on the agenda for HCCA's "June Fest" is an opportunity for the visiting hospitals to meet with school educators, a local hospital, government officials, and to experience a cultural show performed by the students of Manila Doctors College of Nursing.

HCCA International has a total of 18 active US medical facilities, with additional facilities added on a routine basis. The facilities usually interview nurses year round by telephone, which makes "June Fest" unique. If it is successful, we might try this every six months, as well as doing the telephone interviews, Gilinsky said.

In the last 33 years, HCCA International has matched more than 30,000 healthcare workers with international assignments. Current recruitment in the Philippines is done through the POEA. No fees are ever charged to the nurse.

While not eligible for the "June Fest", there will be a special POEA - US orientation and recruitment activity for future HCCA International nurses, on July 1. All those interested should contact POEA's Blenda or Edwin at 722-1174/5 for requirements and venue.

BITS Clips

Terraces open house

AYALA Greenfield's newest phase, the Terraces will be available for viewing at an open house on June 26. The recently launched lots are situated near the exclusive development's Village Clubhouse and 15-hectare Nature Park. These elevated lots, have the best vintage points to date, allowing future residents the advantage of magnificent views of Laguna de Bay, the Tagaytay Ridge, Mt. Makiling, the property's 15-hectare Nature Park and the Village Clubhouse. Experience top-notch service from the country's leading real estate developer. Living at Ayala Greenfield is very conducive to daily relaxation and sports activities that families will be hard-pressed to find in the confines of the congested city. It's distinct attraction , the 18-hole, par 72, all-weather championship golf course is a challenging and environment-friendly venue were professional and weekend golfers can enjoy games with their own parameters. Ayala Greenfield is also an ideal family community for those looking for an active lifestyle. The place is only a 30-minute ride from Alabang. For further details on Ayala Greenfield and the open house, call 728-7000, log on to www.ayalagreenfieldestates.com or email ayala-sales@ayalaland.com.ph.

Automatic Centre mid-year appliance madness

AUTOMATIC Centre is your partner in providing quality education for your kids. Check them (Appliance Centre) at the Edsa Central Mall anytime this month of June for their "Mid-year Appliance Madness @ Edsa Central". Televisions, players, stereos and other appliances aren't just for entertainment or convenience alone. These gadgets actually play an essential role in developing your child's education. These are used as a tool for viewing documentary films. Students need to refresh their memories to finish their reaction papers or to fully understand their oral report in class. So with the stereos, there are certain music/songs students has to memorize and make a reaction paper out of it or dances they have to perform for their PE and music classes or on some special subjects. Indeed Automatic Centre is your tandem in supporting your kids as they go back to school.

JOLLIBEE FRANCHISEES CONVENTION

2004 JOLLIBEE FRANCHISEE OF THE YEAR

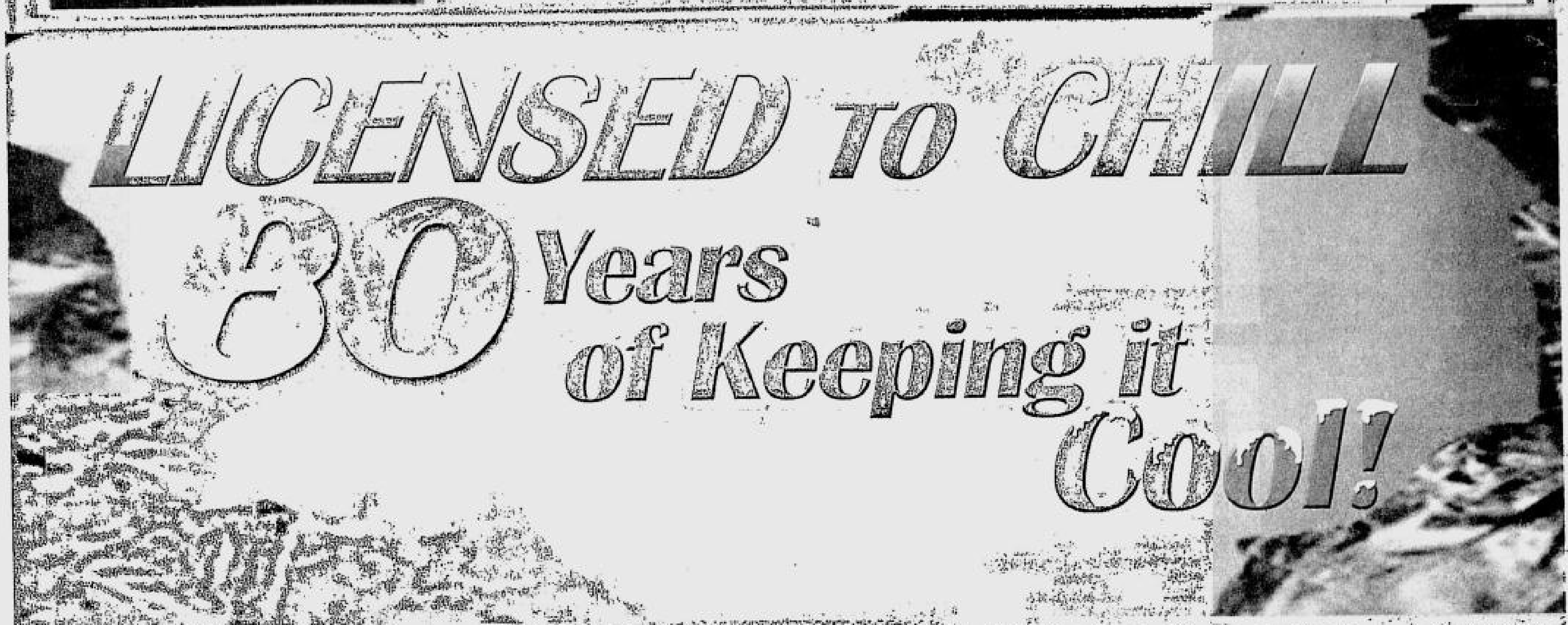
Photo shows Consul Eduardo L. De Guzman (3rd from left) with Madam Julieta G. De Guzman (3rd from right) accepting the 2004 Jollibee Franchisee of the Year Award during the 2005 Jollibee Franchisee Convention held at Shanghai, China recently. Also in photo are (from left) Ernesto Tanmantiong, EVP; Tony Tan Caktiong, president; William Tan Untiong, vice president for real estate and Delifrance chief executive; and Joseph Tanbuntiong, vice president for restaurant systems and quality management.

Product FILES

SM Arena: Big on sports

THERE'S something big in store for all sports enthusiasts. This is not an exaggeration because not only can you shop for your sporting needs all in one place but also enjoy the facilities available in SM Arena. It is an exciting place which offers fun and challenges. SM Arena is an area located at the 2nd floor of SM Southmall in Las Piñas which contains a wide array of sporting goods. Aside from the various sports shops, SM Arena also has a refreshment area, a coffee shop, an arcade and computer gaming. The fun is not restricted to the shopping but extends to activity areas SM Arena offers such as wall climbing, a basketball shooting area and a bowling alley. See and experience for yourself why it is fast becoming a shopping haven and hangout area for sports fanatics.

CHEE PUCK REFRIGERATION INC.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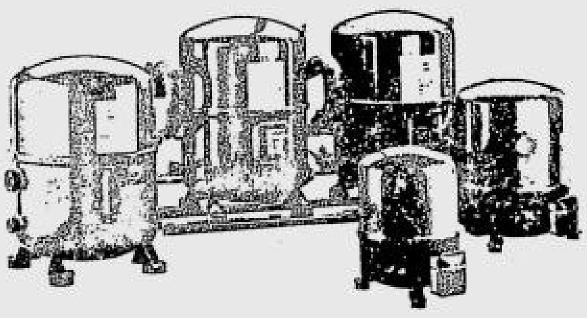

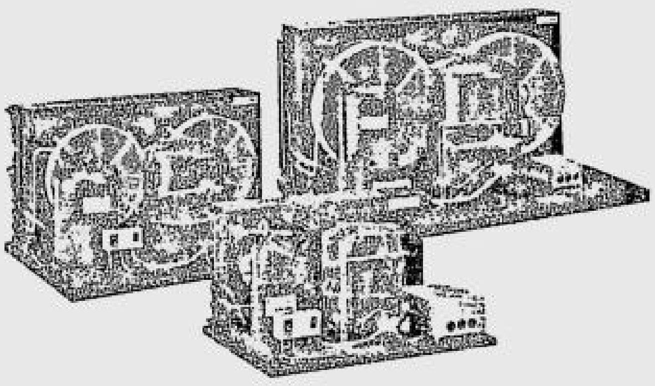

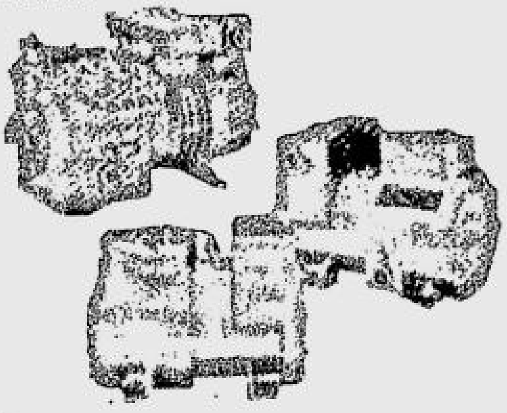

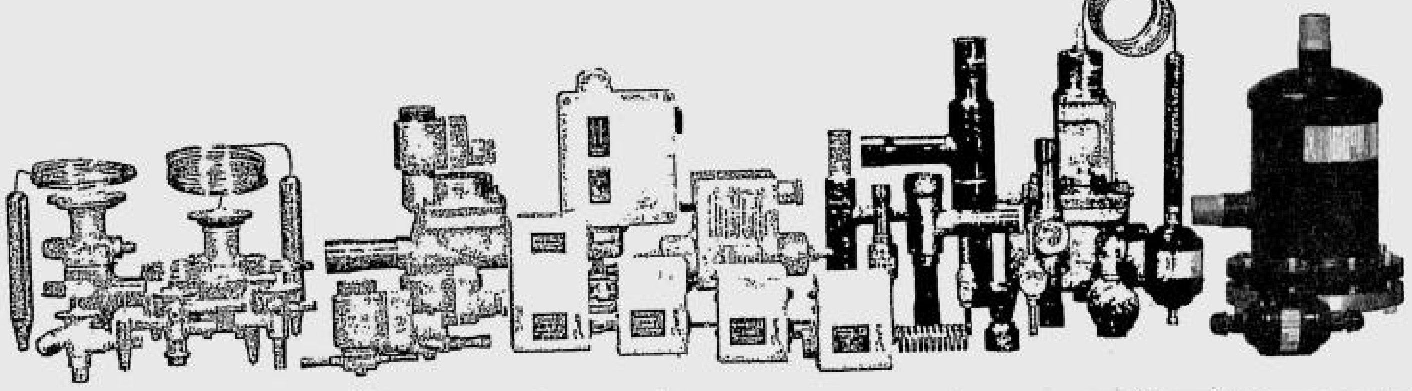

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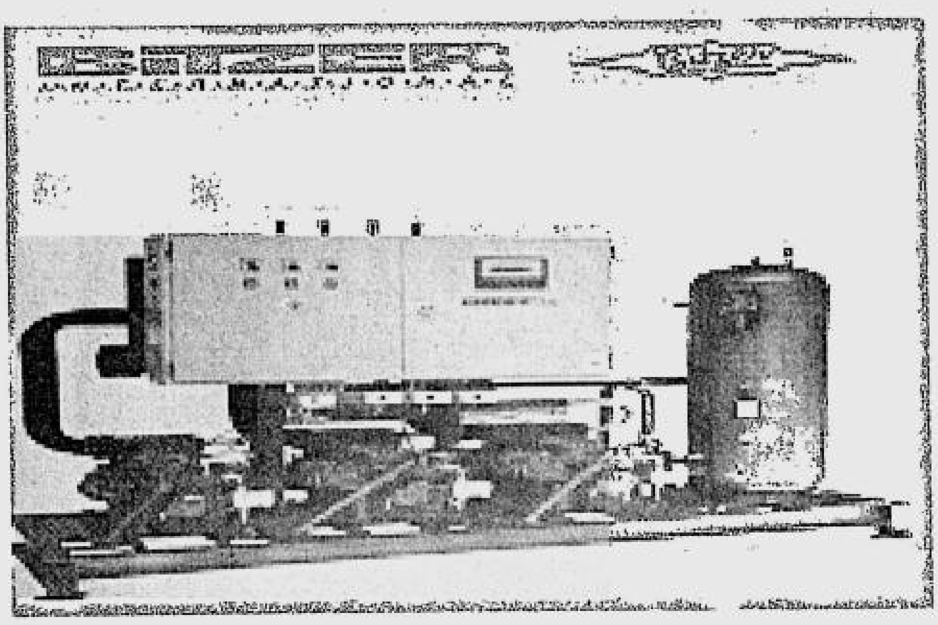

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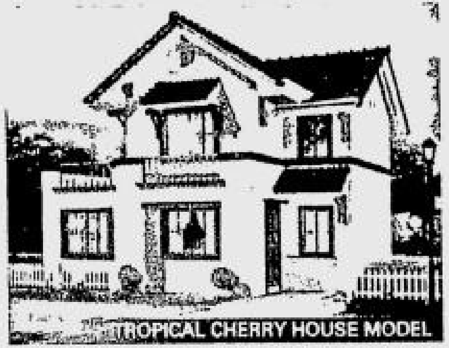

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late MELQUIADES C. GUTIERREZ has been extra-judicially settled by the heirs per Doc. No. 256, Page No. 51, Book No. I, Series of 2005, before Atty. Ma. Cecilia P. Subido, Notary Public, Makati City.
(PDI-June 23, 30 & July 7, 2005)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Manfred Karl Hermann Krause has been the subject of a deed of extrajudicial settlement with waiver by his heirs as per Doc. No. 80, Page No. 17, Book No. CX, Series of 2005 of Notary Public Benjamin L. Rabo of Q.C. (PDI-June 9, 16, 23, 2005)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given to the loss of official receipts of OPTACOOL ENTERPRISES bearing series of 0551-0600 (Bklt. 2) & 0651-0700 (Bklt.3). Any transaction covered by those OR# shall not be honored by the company (PDI-June 23, 2005)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that at a Special Meeting held on April 30, 2005 in Seoul, Republic of Korea, the Board of Directors of CHUSIK HOESA NATURALIFE (NATURALIFE CO., LTD. in English) has unanimously approved the withdrawal of its license and the dissolution/closure of its Representative Office in the Philippines effective as of May 30, 2005.

All persons having claims against the said Philippine Representative Office are requested to present the same at the Office of its authorized representative agent, Atty. Antonino P. San Juan, Jr., with office address at 3/F Saville Building, 8728 Paseo de Roxas Avenue corner Jupiter Street, Makati City.

This announcement shall serve as notice of the withdrawal dissolution of the aforesaid representative office.

(Sgd.) ATTY. ANTONINO P. SAN JUAN, JR.
Representative Agent

(PDI–June 23, 30 & July 7, 2005)

PERSONAL

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED MOTHER

Oh Most Beautiful Flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity. Oh Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my Heart to succor me in this necessity, there are none that can withstand your Power. Oh show me herein you are my Mother. Oh Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (repeat 3x). Sweet Mother, I place this course in Your hands (3x). Thank you for your Mercy towards me and being mine. Thank you Mama Mary for answering my prayers, Amen.

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Lord, show us the light of your face!
Psalm 4:7

BRO. DANILO ARZAGON PAMPLONA, FMS

(November 30, 1953 - June 20, 2005)
Habit Taking - June 29, 1973
First Profession - July 26, 1974
Final Profession - April 28, 1979

The Marist Brothers and relatives request his former students, associates and friends to pray for the repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Marist Province Center, NDDC-HS Lagao Campus, General Santos City.

Interment will be on Sunday, June 26, 2005 at the Marist Brothers Cemetery after the 9:30 a.m. Holy Mass at the Marist Novitiate, Tamontaka, Cotabato City.

"I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,
and You forgave the inquiry of my sin."
Psalm 32:5

Mauro de Guzman Calaguio

Peacefully joined our Creator
on June 21, 2005 at the age of 83.

A loving husband to **Felicing**, responsible father to his children and children-in-law, **Perla & Jess, Myrna & Max** (†), **Manny & Jo, June & Ining, Claro, Angel, Sal & Badette** and a sweet "Papa" to his grandchildren **Missy, Francis, Gerry & Girlie, Vanessa, Meg, Pat, Mark, Michelle, CJ, Charlene, Princess & Mariano, King, Jen-jen & George, Christian & Merald, Joan & Patrick, Dongie, Thea** and great grandchildren, **Maxi, Tyler, Kurt, Kyle, Cole, Tyrell Xavier**.

His body lies in state at Nacional Memorial Homes (Chapel 2-B), G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City and will be transferred to Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan, Quezon City on June 25, 2005.

Interment will be at Sta. Barbara Cemetery, date will be announced later.

"For God
so loved the
world,
that He
gave His
only
begotten
Son, that
whoever
believes in
Him
shall not
perish but
have
everlasting
life."
John 3:16

The Philippine Province
of the Society of Jesus

joins all Filipinos and the Catholic Church in our country
in grief and a sense of loss at the passing of our beloved

JAIME L. CARDINAL SIN, D.D.

Archbishop Emeritus of the Archdiocese of Manila

We unite minds, hearts and voices in loving prayer for

this patriot and prophet,
shepherd and servant-leader
disciple of the Lord Jesus
and devoted son of Mary His Mother

who unfailingly held up for our land and people
the Hope of the Crucified and Risen Lord
by word, example, suffering—by his selflessly given life.

With the Filipino people, we too owe so much
to this inspiring leader of the Church, this truly great Filipino.

Maraming salamat, Cardinal Sin—with all our hearts.

Fr. Daniel Patrick Huang, S.J.,
Provincial, and his Jesuit brethren:
priests, brothers, scholastics, novices

NATIVIDAD REGLOS

peacefully joined her Creator on
June 18, 2005 at the age of 65.

Her bereaved husband **Benjamin**; sons and daughters **Edgar, Venezer, Joy, Tutot, Analyn** and **Dennis**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at #3 Camatchille St., Libis Bulelak Malanday, Marikina City.

Interment will be on Sunday, June 26, 2005 at 3 p.m. at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

Our dearly beloved
Daddy

Jose Atacador Delfin

His loving wife **Ching**; children and children-in-law **Tessa, Dong & Tony**, and **Che & Mayet**; grandson **Quinito**; sisters and brother **Lily, Nene** and **Carlito**; sister-in-law **Linda**; nephews and nieces and relatives request the readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at The Holy Trinity Chapel, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Marikina City.

Interment will be on June 24, 2005,
Friday, at 10:00 a.m. after the 9:00 a.m. Mass
at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

Elysium Gardens: A columbarium like no other

THE Elysium, in Greek mythology, is the final resting place for souls of heroes.

The Elysium Gardens Columbarium, conceived to house the cremated remains of our dearly departed, is like no other. Located at the heart of Quezon City, along E. Rodriguez Avenue within the compound of The Cathedral of Saint Mary and Saint John, the Elysium Gardens, offers an alternative way to honor and celebrate the memories of our loved ones.

Blissful and pristine, the Elysium Gardens features a Memorial Plaza, housing the outdoor vaults, amidst a lush garden setting, and the architectural marvel that is Solarium. A modern structure covered in natural stones called travertine houses the indoor vaults. Its design allows the abundance of natural light inside. There's also an ecumenical chapel available for the memorial services.

Your departed loved ones deserve no less than a paradise. Call 723-6494 / 723-7651 / 723-6335. This project is a joint venture of BGT Infra and Development Corp and The Cathedral of St. Mary and St. John.

CLASSIFIEDS

2005 REBAP NATIONAL BOARD
(From left to right) National directors Freddie C. Gonzales and Rene E. Jularbal, Secretary general Evangeline A. Yia, National director Eden A. Dela Cruz, National president Cherith A. Domingo; National chairman Danilo Y. Santos, National PRO Aurora M. Punzalan, VP Internal Emily Q. Duterte and National treasurer Noel N. Cobangbang.

Rebap to hold 2nd GMM

THE REAL Estate Brokers Association of the Philippines Inc. will hold its 2nd General Membership Meeting on Wednesday, June 29, 2005, at the Roofdeck of Prestige Tower, Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City at 5:30 p.m.

Highlights of the program include the official announcement of the hosting of Rebap Naga Chapter of the 27th Rebap National Convention to be held in Naga City on Nov. 24, 25 and 26, 2005 and the winner of the cover design of the souvenir program contest. Aside from members of Rebap's Metro Manila chapters, members of Rebap's provincial chapters are also expected to attend.

NFA delivers stocks direct to retailers

THE NATIONAL Food Authority today said that it delivers the rice allocation of its accredited rice retailers directly to the outlets to prevent stock diversion. NFA Administrator Gregorio Y. Tan, Jr. said the food agency makes sure that correct allocations are delivered directly to accredited retailers, contrary to the allegation of a group of retailers that the food agency favors big-time commercial rice retailers over small, authorized retailers. The retailers complained that most of the NFA rice supplies for its "Bigasang Bayan" are being hoarded by commercial rice dealers

in the country with the involvement of top officials of the food industry. In this regard, Tan called on the retailers to identify the names of the persons they believe are involved in the said irregularity and specify the areas the said incident took place. NFA will punish unscrupulous traders engaged this type of malpractices. Incidentally, Tan advised the public to continue reporting to any irregularities observed in its marketing operations. Customer Assistance Units (CAUs) also had been established in all NFA offices nationwide to cater to walk-in customers. Customers may approach authorized NFA personnel who man the CAU booths to seek for assistance, raise their complaints or even suggest anything on NFA operations. For more information on NFA programs, please send inquiries via Text NFA through mobile number 0917-6210927. For information on programs of the Department of Agriculture, please visit the DA's official website at www.da.gov.ph.

2005 Sogo Sportsfest opens

HOTEL Sogo, the largest and fastest growing walk-in hotel in the country, will hold the Grand Opening of its 2005 Sportsfest on July 21, 2005 at the Malibay, Gym in Pasay City.

Hotel Sogo holds its very own sportsfest annually to promote physical fitness and teamwork among its employees. For this year, Hotel Sogo has added Darts and Badminton categories to its main and traditional sport which is basketball.

The Grand opening will be graced by the Honorable Pasay City Vice Mayor Calixto. Parade of Teams and Hotel Sogo sticker patching will be done within Pasay City. Celebrity guests will add glitter and excitement to this grand event.

The 2005 Hotel Sogo Sportsfest will run until August 2005.

WANTED

(I) LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT OFFICER III
Item No. : ILSB-LEO3-5-1998
Salary Grade: 16
Basic Salary: P14,098.00 plus P1,000.00 monthly allowance
Minimum Qualification/Requirements:

- Civil Service Eligible (Professional)
- Bachelor Degree preferably in Economics, Sociology, Business/ Public Administration, Journalism, Mass/Development Communication, Statistics, and other related courses
- One (1) year experience in social development research
- Four (4) hours of relevant training

(I) LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANT
Item No. : ILSB-LEA-6-2004
Salary Grade: 08
Basic Salary: P8,709.00 plus P1,000.00 monthly allowance
Minimum Qualification/Requirements:

- Civil Service Eligible (professional)
- Bachelor Degree preferably in Economics, Sociology, Business/ Public Administration, Journalism, Mass/Development Communication, Statistics and other related course
- One (1) year relevant experience
- Four (4) hours of relevant training

Qualified parties may personally apply or send their comprehensive resumé to:

The Executive Director
INSTITUTE FOR LABOR STUDIES
5th Floor, Department of Labor and Employment Building
General Luna Street, Intramuros, Manila
Tel. No. 527-35-22
Fax Nos. 527-34-91

ANNOUNCEMENT

Hope Christian High School Alumni Association Inc. (HCHSAAI) will have an election of officers this coming June 24, 2005 (Friday), 3:00 PM at Hope Christian High School 1242 Benavidez St. (Youth Center).

Eligible to be voted into office are those alumni who were elected to the Council of Representatives during the General Assembly held last March 6, 2005. However, all alumni are invited to attend.

For details contact: Ms. Christine Sim / Ms. Christina Co Tel # 2519496 or Magdalena Ty 2440344 / 09179006918.

COMM. MAURO G. CALAGUIO, SR.

Board Director, United Doctors Medical Center, Inc.

joined his Almighty Creator on June 21, 2005
at the age of 83.

With a deep sense of loss,

The Board of Directors, Officers, Medical Staff and Employees of
UNITED DOCTORS MEDICAL CENTER

condole with his entire family and request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains now lie in state at the Nacional Memorial Homes,
Chapel 2-B, 264-G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
until June 24, 2005.

On June 25, 2005, his remains will be transferred to his hometown residence at Poblacion Norte, Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan.

COMM. MAURO G. CALAGUIO, SR.

Board Director, Southeast Asian College, Inc.

peacefully joined his Creator on June 21, 2005
at the age of 83.

With a deep sense of loss,

The Board of Directors, Officers, Deans,
Administrative Staff and Employees of
SOUTHEAST ASIAN COLLEGE, INC.

condole with his entire family and request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains now lie in state at the Nacional Memorial Homes,
Chapel 2-B, 264-G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
until June 24, 2005.

On June 25, 2005, his remains will be transferred to his hometown residence at Poblacion Norte, Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan.

Pontifical and Royal

University of Santo Tomas

The Catholic University of the Philippines

1611

The Thomasian community joins the Church and the Filipino nation in mourning the death of

His Eminence Jaime Cardinal Sin, D.D.

committed servant of the Lord and shepherd of the people, who believed in the power and strength of the Filipino.

The University of Santo Tomas will offer a
Requiem Mass for
His Eminence Jaime Cardinal Sin, D.D.
on June 23, 2005, Thursday, 9 a.m. at the Manila Cathedral.

Faculty members, students, employees, alumni and friends
are invited to participate in this Eucharistic Celebration.

Rev. Fr. Tamerlane R. Lana, O.P., UST Rector,
will be the Main Celebrant.

Mindanao exports hit $338M in March

DAVAO CITY—Mindanao, the country's food basket, registered a 13-percent growth in export earnings in the first quarter of the year.

Data from the Mindanao Economic Development Council (MEDCo) showed that exports as of March hit $383 million, from $338 million in the same period last year.

The export growth came courtesy of the traditional export winners, such as banana ($79.5 million) and coconut oil ($86 million).

Nickel ore exports also grew from $6 million to $10 million in the first three months.

Non-traditional export products, such as cetyl alcohol and stearyl alcohol, both used in the cosmetics industry, also boosted export growth with a total export value of $16.8 million.

MEDCo said the bulk of Mindanao's exports went to Japan, which accounted for 23 percent of the island's total shipments.

The United States captured 21 percent of Mindanao's exports valued at $80.7 million, followed by the Netherlands at $42.7 million, South Korea at $25.4 million and Taiwan at $24.5 million.

Presidential Assistant and MEDCo chair Jesus Dureza said the impressive performance of the region only showed its ability to respond to global demands.

"Mindanao continues to show that contrary to public perception, the island performs and delivers, contributing significantly to regional and national growth," Dureza said.

Mindanao attracted 15 new investment projects last year.

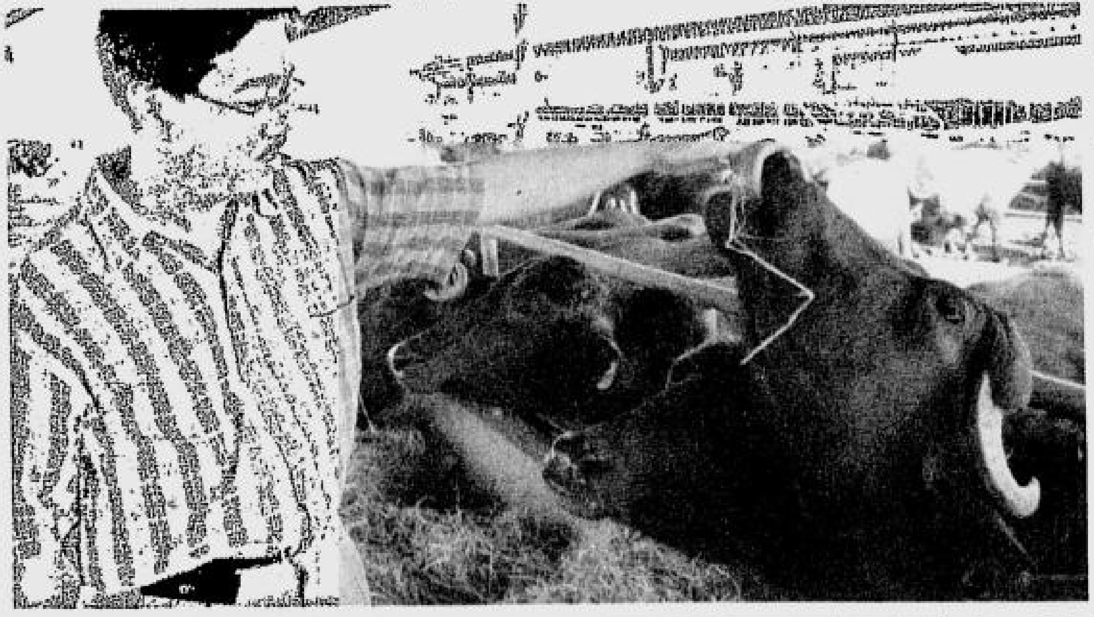
These include projects of Petroline Resources Inc., in the northern region of the island; Philippine Service of Mercy Foundation Inc., Asephil Manufacturing Corp., Hayley & Amy Food Corp., Ginebra San Miguel Inc. and Global Trend Pacific Furniture.

Dureza said the double-digit growth in export figure also "indicated that a significant headway was being achieved in spurring and sustaining growth in areas within Mindanao that need the added push from the private and public sectors."

He said, however, that Mindanao businesses needed to improve products and production processes, and develop new markets if the island were to sustain its positive economic performance.

"While the statistics are encouraging, Mindanao needs to further strengthen on key factors, such as improved production processes, and take advantage of expanded trade opportunities provided by the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asean Growth Area (BIMP-Eaga)," Dureza said.

He said that aside from the traditional markets, Mindanao should also look into the "lucrative" North Asia and China markets. *Jeffrey M. Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



MUNOZ CITY, NUEVA ECIJA. Ruminant nutritionist Dr. Daniel Aquino, supervising science research specialist at the National Water Buffalo Gene Pool, allows a playful carabao to lick his hand as he monitors them at the Philippine Carabao Center here. The center is a breeding and research facility for the propagation of hybrid water buffalos.

JOE GALVEZ

World Bank sees 'bright spots' among LGUs

NAGA CITY—The World Bank, through its financing arm, the International Finance Corp. (IFC), is studying the possibility of lending directly to local government units.

Florencio T. Mongoso Jr., chief of the Public Employment Services Office here, said in a recent interview that the IFC team was going around checking the credit standing of some LGUs, which it considers the "bright spots in the Philippines."

Mongoso said the credit investigation was part of the IFC's plan to lend directly to the LGUs, instead of going through the national government channels.

He said the IFC team had observed that some loans extended to the national government failed to comply with the required equity of 20-30 percent of the total cost of the project.

Mongoso said the IFC team had made a list of prospective LGUs, which it would rate according to fiscal management and operations.

Among the factors to be considered in rating LGUs were budget compliance for 2003 and 2004 and ability to save government resources and generate revenues.

The team declined, however, to identify the LGUs that were likely to get direct loans from the IFC.

Mongoso said one of the available loan packages from IFC loan deals with environmental preservation and protection.

Mongoso said the IFC team conducting the credit studies included Martin Spicer, Melba Baltazar and Shaila Yasmeen Khan. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Transfer of Naia flights to Clark seen in 2012

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—The earliest transfer of international and local flights from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) in Metro Manila to the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport here is expected between 2012 and 2014.

By that time, the runway capacity of the Naia would have reached its limit, according to Danilo Augusto Francia, president and chief executive office of the Clark International Airport Corp.

Francia made the prediction during the recent meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Airlines Operators Council (AAOC).

At least 60 senior executives of major airlines, such as Lufthansa and Continental Airlines, joined the meeting.

"The transition from the Naia to the DMIA would take place, the earliest in 2012 to 2014, when the saturation level of the DMIA is met," he said. "We foresee some of the flights coming to Clark by then."

That prospect became remote when the contract of the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco) for the Naia Terminal 3 barred the use of other passenger terminals like the one in Clark.

The contract is under litigation following the takeover by the government.

Formerly the biggest American military airport in the Asia-Pacific region until 1991, the DMIA was declared by former President Fidel Ramos in 1997 as the "premiere international gateway to the Philippines."

Through an executive order by Ramos, at least 2,700 hectares of this ecozone's 4,400 hectares have been devoted to what is now called the "aerotropolis."

Renamed the DMIA, after the late President Diosdado Macapagal, the father of President Macapagal-Arroyo, the airport was prepared to take in more flights as early as three years ago.

DMIA is four times bigger than the 600-ha Naia.

Low cost airlines now operating in Clark are Air Asia Berhad, Tiger Airways and China Rich Airways, which separately serve the Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong routes.

The DMIA is also getting to be a favored cargo freight hub, a trend started by UPS. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

DA eyes development of idle land in E. Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—The Department of Agriculture (DA) has targeted for agribusiness development this year around 21,700 hectares of "new land" in Eastern Visayas.

The move is expected to increase food production and generate about 65,000 new jobs in the region.

Leo Cañeda, DA executive director for Eastern Visayas, said about half of the 21,700 hectares represent coconut lands that were either idle or underutilized.

He said farmers can either intercrop or go into aquaculture and livestock integration projects in these idle lands.

Development of idle lands for agribusiness is one of the twin goals of the agriculture department, in support of the 10-point agenda of President Macapagal Arroyo.

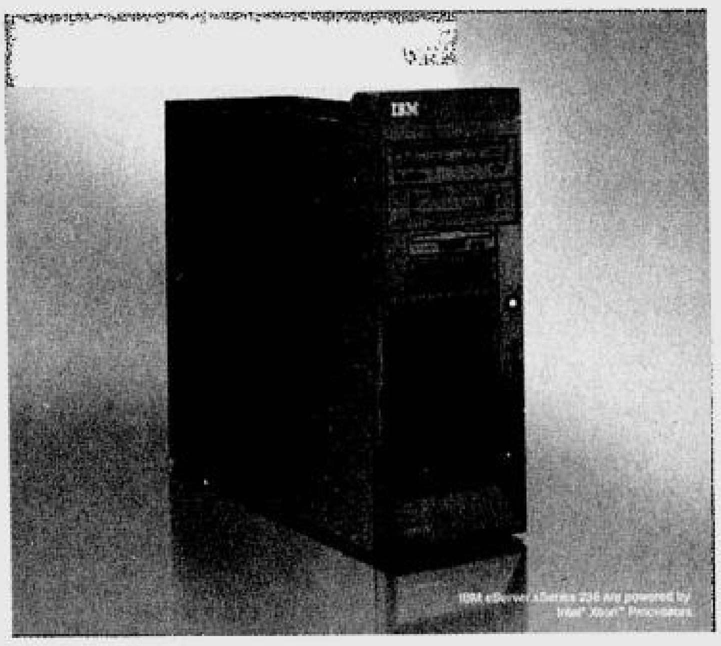
"What is included in goal one in our agribusiness plan are coconut and some high value crops, like mango, jackfruit, coffee, abaca," he said.

Cañeda said rice was not included because the DA was not sure if it could invest in irrigation due to funding constraints.

The other goal is to bring down the cost of wages, goods or basic commodities such as rice, fish, vegetables, pork, poultry, eggs and corn through productivity enhancement, efficient logistic distribution and improved retailing.

Congressmen and governors in Eastern Visayas have indicated their support to the agribusiness project, which was expected to generate 65,000 new jobs in the region, he said.

Cañeda said the governors and DA officials recently signed a memorandum of understanding on "how much they will support the project in terms of counterpart funding support and in terms of level of cooperation through the technical support that they can devote." *Vicente S. Labro, PDI Visayas Bureau*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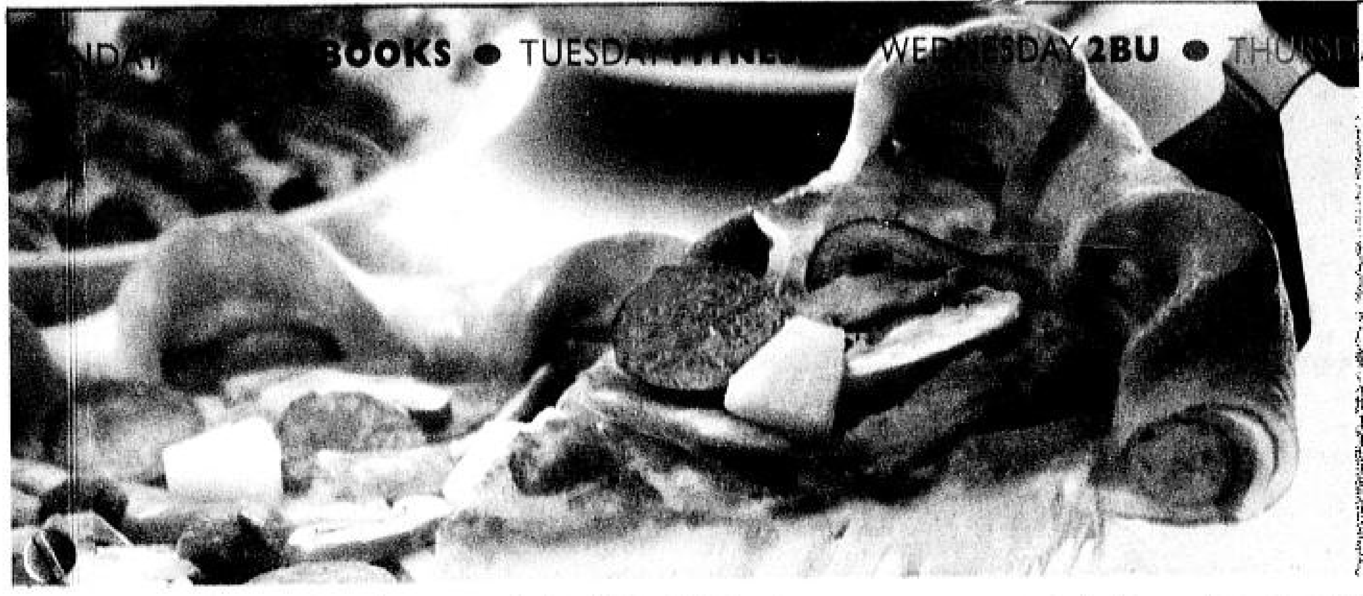

The Pizza Company is a treat for jaded pizza eaters

EXTREME Super Deluxe Pizza.

Slicing into the pizza market

By Pam Pastor

WHAT do the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Joey Tribbiani from "Friends" and Filipinos have in common?

Their love for pizza.

Statistics show that people in the Philippines consume more pizza than any other Asian nation. Which is why we shouldn't be surprised that there are countless pizza chains all over the country, continually flooding us with new products, promos and promises.

The Pizza Company, the leading pizza brand in Thailand for the past four years, believes it can take on the competition.

It recently opened its first branch in Market! Market! and has already won the hearts of many pizza fans.

At the official launch, members of the media enjoyed the pizza buffet where they were able to sample The Pizza Company's different offerings.

Fast favorites at the event included the Pork BBQ Deluxe (BBQ Pork, Pepperoni, Sliced Bacon, Sliced Ham, Italian Sausage, Green Pepper, Onion, Red and Green Chili), Seafood Extreme (Prawn, Crab Meat, Onion, Pineapple, Tomato and Green Pepper) and the Thai-inspired Tom Yung Kung pizza (Prawn, Squid, Chili Paste, Mushroom).

Other gourmet flavors include Tropical Prawn (Prawn, Pineapple), Prawn and Ham, Seafood Cocktail (Prawn, Crab Stick, Sliced Ham, Pineapple, Thousand Island Sauce), Super Deluxe (Pork, Italian Sausage, Pepperoni, Sliced Ham, Sliced Bacon, Onion, Green Pepper, Mushroom, Pineapple).

Those with simpler tastes would enjoy any of the classic pizzas— Ham and Mushroom,

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Catering Seminar: June 24 - 25 (F-S) 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Legal & technical aspect to get started in catering . Facilities, personnel, menu including portioning and quantification. Actual cooking preparation of popular Filipino & international dishes: Vietnamese Beef Noodle Soup, Baked Spring Rolls, Rolled Porkloin Adobo Style, Roast Stuffed Chicken Thighs with Garlic Gravy, Chicken Galantina, Vegetable Samosa, Creamed Spinach Soup, Spicy Chicken Wings, Quiche Lorraine, Eggplant Skordalia & special dessert. Free cookbook. P3,000

Brownies & Pies Galore: June 25 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Brownie Cheesecake, Date Nuts, Rocky Road, Blackforest, French Apple Pie, Lemon-Meringue Pie, Walnut Pie. P800.

CERTIFICATE COURSES WITH HANDS-ON (Limited enrolment. Pre-registration required. Apron, chef's hat included.)

Basic Cooking: July 5-8 or July 19-22 (T-F) 9:00 - 2:00 p.m. More topics included! Proper hygiene, sanitation and safety; Nutrition and Nutritional Cooking; proper mis-en-place of mirepoix, stocks, soups, sauces, marinades, use of herbs and spices combinations, proper purchasing, storage, techniques of disjointing and boning poultry, filleting fish and meat fabrication. With actual preparation of dishes from appetizer, salad, eggs, pasta, seafoods, poultry and meats, dessert including garnishing for plate presentation. Free Mix & Match cookbook. P5,000

Basic Cake Decorating: July 9 & 16 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Fundamentals of cake decorating: coloring, designing, template, icing (boiled, caramel, chocolate, sugar icing); basic borders, jelly lettering, basic flowers including bunching. Individual workshop on icing application & cake designing. P3,000

Basic Baking: July 12-15 or July 26-29 (T-F) 1:30 - 5:30 p.m. Standard baking techniques applicable to the preparation of different types of bread dough, quickbreads, pastry dough and cookies, cakes and ready mixes. P4,000 with free cookbook.

Basic Waitering & Bartending : July 23 & 30 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Basic setup, techniques of suggestive selling, proper serving and bussing out, napkin folding & skirting. Bar tools and glass wares, classification of wine and spirits, simple garnish. With actual mixing of cocktail drinks and wine tasting. P2,500

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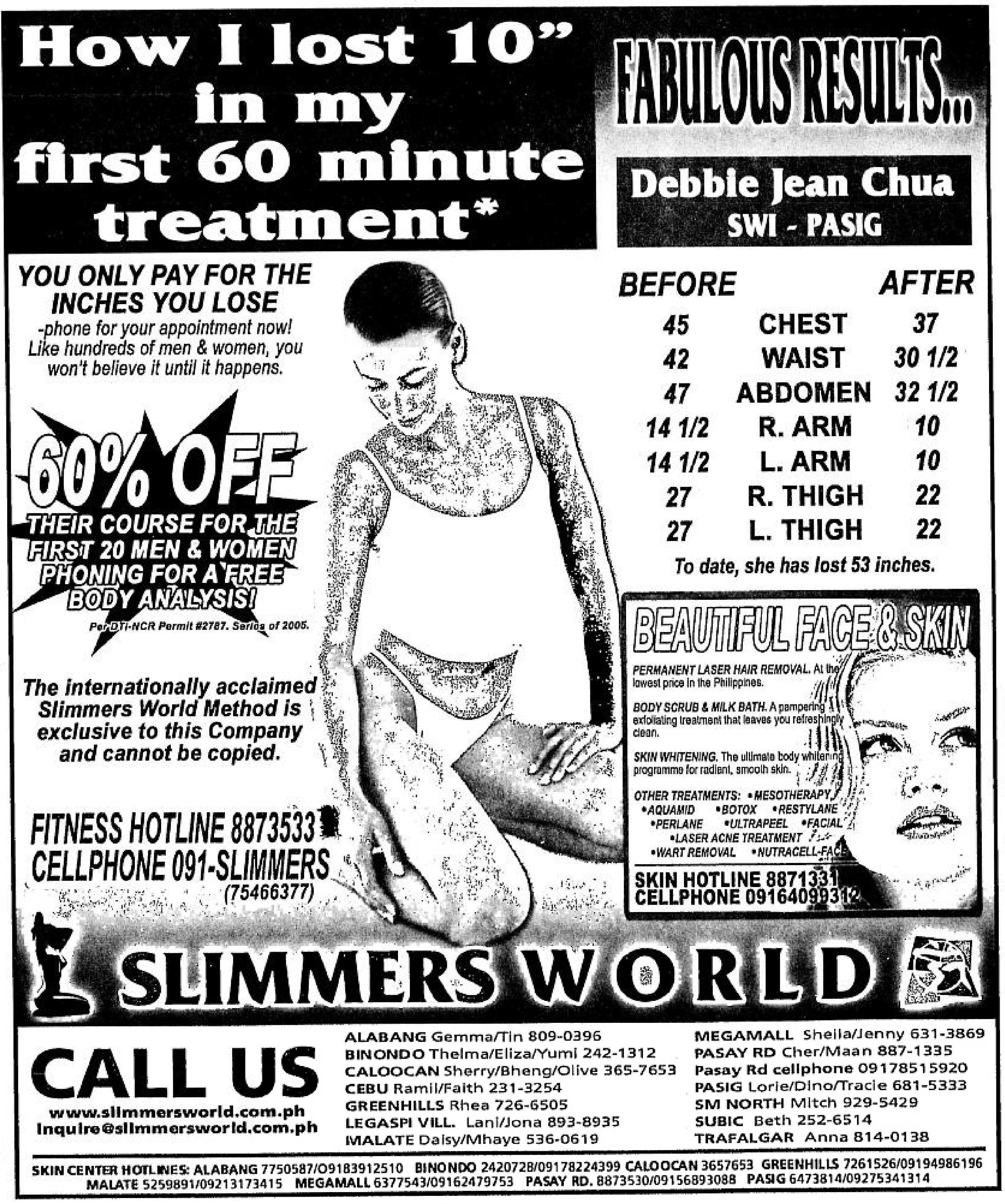

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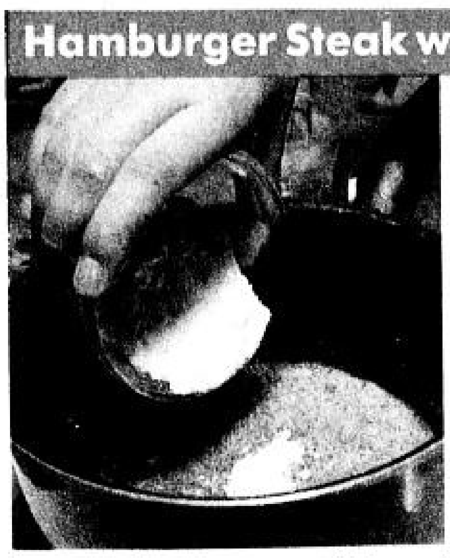
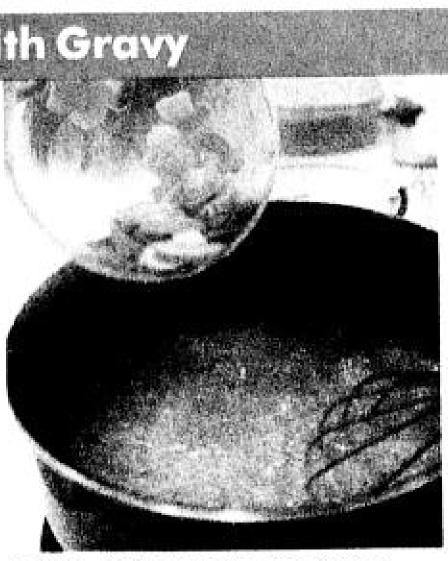
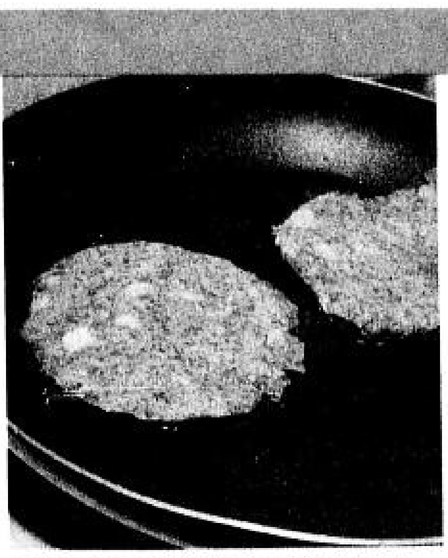
Hamburger Steak with Gravy



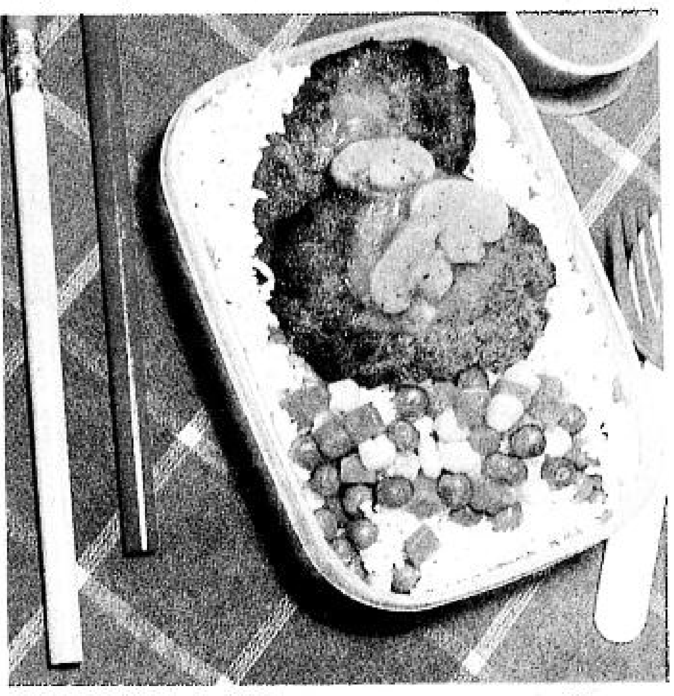
MELT margarine in a saucepan. Add flour and mix to form a thick paste. While stirring, slowly add beef stock.



COOK until slightly thick while stirring continuously. Season with soy sauce and pepper. Add mushrooms if desired. Mix well and set aside.

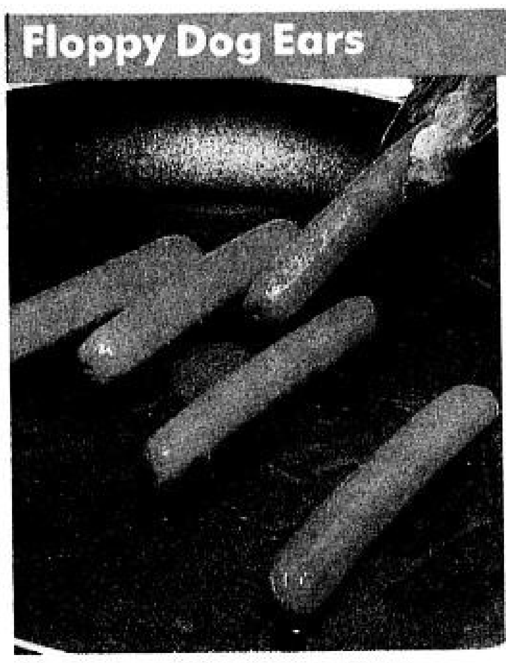


MEANWHILE, pan-fry beef burgers. Pour sauce on top or on the side of the beef burgers. Serve with plain rice and veggies.



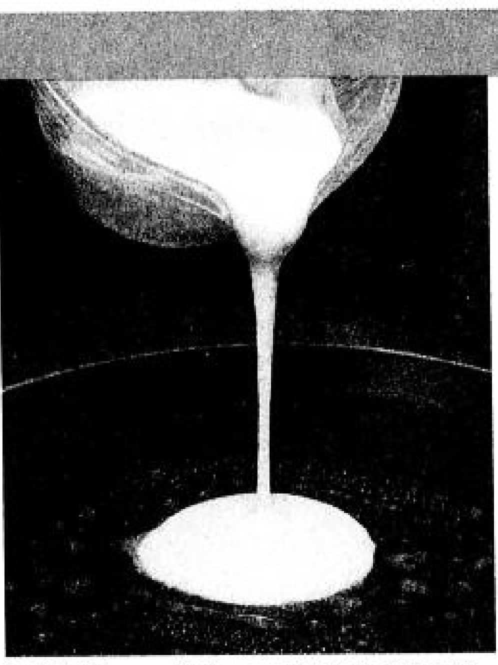
HAMBURGER Steakwith Gravy

Floppy Dog Ears

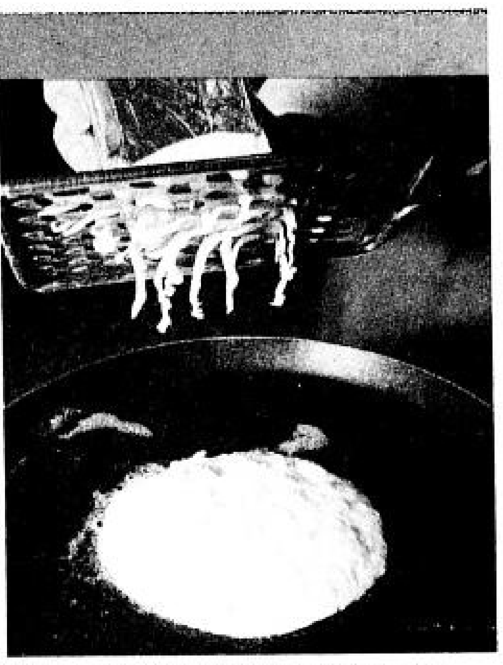


PAN-FRY hotdogs in oil. Set aside.

PREPARE pancake mix according to package directions. Set aside.



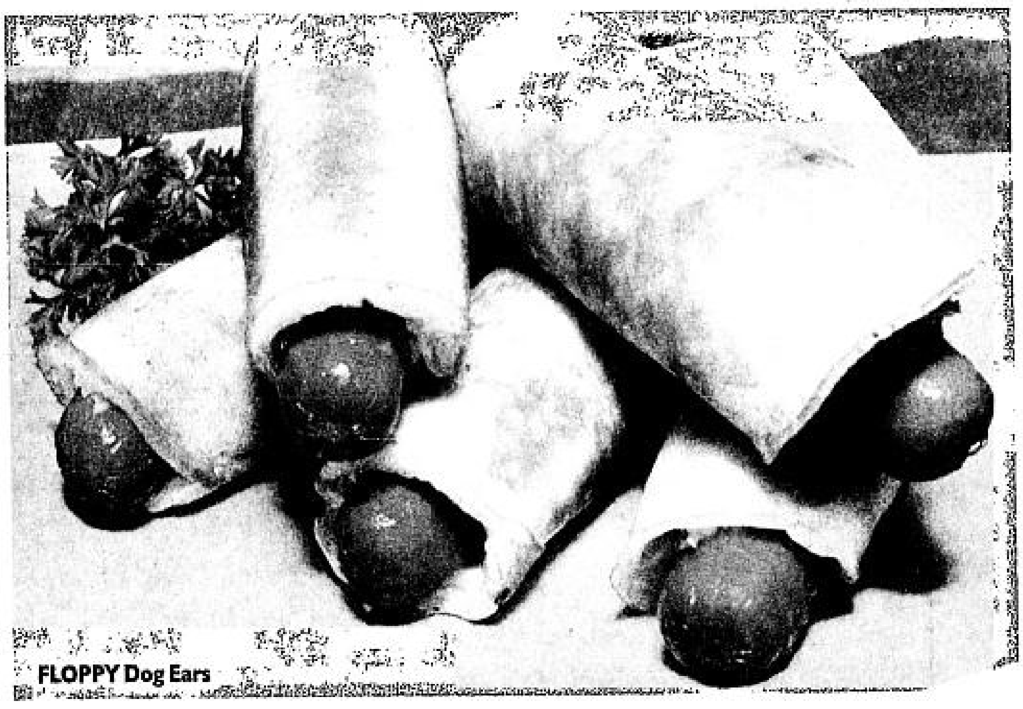
PREHEAT a crepe/frying pan. Melt a teaspoon of butter. Pour about 1/3 c of pancake batter on the pan.



WHEN bubbles appear on the surface, sprinkle some grated cheese on top.

PLACE a piece of hotdog in the middle of the pancake.

CAREFULLY roll the pancake to secure hotdog in the middle. Continue to cook over low heat until pancake has set. Serve warm with pancake syrup or ketchup.



FLOPPY Dog Ears

Healthy, easy-to-prepare 'baon'

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Rudy Esperas

IT'S BACK-to-school season, and parents have to start thinking about delicious, nutritious and filling "baon" recipes for their kids.

Although good old peanut butter sandwiches are actually a nutritious lunch or snack choice, many kids tire of the same thing day after day.

"Preparing school snacks for kids can be both exciting and stressful for most parents," says Maricel Manalo, product application specialist of San Miguel Pure Foods Culinary Center (tel. 6716044). "Yet there are many ways to liven up those school lunchboxes, so they don't end up in the trash can."

Here are two back-to-school *baon* recipes that are not only flavorful, convenient and portable, but also provide valuable nutrients that kids need: protein, iron and calcium.

STEP BY STEP

Hamburger Steak with Delicious Gravy and Floppy Dog Ears are lunchbox choices that are not only easy to make, but are also fun to eat.

The burger steak is prepared with creamy gravy, which does not spoil easily. The gravy is prepared with margarine, flour, beef stock, soy sauce and pepper. If you want it richer and creamier, add milk. If you have more time in your hands, it's best to toast the flour in a saucepan before mixing it with other ingredients. Beef burgers in supermarkets cost about P76 for a pack of six.

"To add color, accompany the burger steak with veggies cut into smaller pieces. This will interest your child in the food you pack," says Manalo.

Floppy Dog Ears is another variation of hotdog waffle, which is simply hotdog wrapped in pancake. This snack can be stored in airtight containers or resealable plastic bags.

These burger and hotdog recipes are perfect for field trips, school lunches or after school snacks. And no matter how you decide to serve them, they are a healthy and frugal alternative to chips, cookies and other store-brought snacks.

Hamburger Steak with Gravy

1 pack Monterey Beef Burgers
2 tbsp Dari Crème Classic
¼ c all-purpose flour
1 pc beef bouillon cube, dissolved in 2 c water
2 tsp soy sauce
½ tsp ground black pepper
½ c sliced mushroom (optional)

Floppy Dog Ears

5 pcs Pure Foods TJ Regular hotdogs
Cooking oil for pan-frying
1 (250 g) pack pancake mix (store bought)
¼ c Magnolia Gold Butter
½ c Magnolia Quickmelt Cheese, grated

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

Finally, a credit card for all things family – and all things school

It's that time of the year again. No, we're not talking about weddings here but school opening. It is no doubt something that parents are not exactly looking forward to --and with good reason. The very idea of figuring out ways to squeeze school expenses into tight financial resources is enough to drive anyone crazy. There are books, uniforms, notebooks, shoes (Doesn't the list seem endless?) to think about.

With tuition rising each year, stretching your peso can be quite a challenge. It does not help either that there's always a threat of price increases. So what are parents to do?

Now you can stop stressing over it. PSBank MasterCard has arrived; in the nick of time, too. Launched on June 16, PSBank MasterCard is one of the few, if not the only family-friendly card in the country. The whole concept of offering a card dedicated to answering family needs came from the formidable team of Metrobank Card Corporation and PSBank.

Sheila Sarinas, Assistant Vice President of PSBank says, "PSBank MasterCard was designed with you and your family in mind. It helps you with your family-related expenses. It comes with the Family Health Helper that provides the qualified cardholder with a personal accident coverage bundled with a hospitalization cash benefit. To qualify, simply accumulate P5,000 worth of purchases. We are offering this new card feature because we care for every Filipino family. For us, family matters most."

While it offers standard credit card benefits, PSBank MasterCard also offers family-oriented extras. One of these is the Family Reward. It's ideal for bonding. It entitles you to free movie tickets when you use the PSBank MasterCard for the first time.

Need cash in a jiffy? No sweat. There's PSBank MasterCard's Family Ready Cash that gives you access to funds you can use for emergencies or any other need. It comes in handy and is certainly timely especially now that classes have opened. By simply visiting the nearest PSBank or Metrobank branch and filling out the Ready Cash Availment form, cardholders can enjoy ready cash within an hour. The best part is that you can pay it back in easy installments.

Rolly Rodriguez, Executive Vice President for PSBank reveals, "Most of the credit cards in the market focus on personal and material satisfaction. We thought that it is high time that we offer a card that's more sensitive to the family's needs." As a dad himself, Tito Garcia, PSBank President, understands only too well the desire of parents to provide for all the needs of their children. He stresses, "We want to emphasize the importance of managing finances. This is not to say that wants always have to take a backseat to needs. But with PSBank MasterCard, you can now strike a balance between the two. See it as a credit card for all things family."

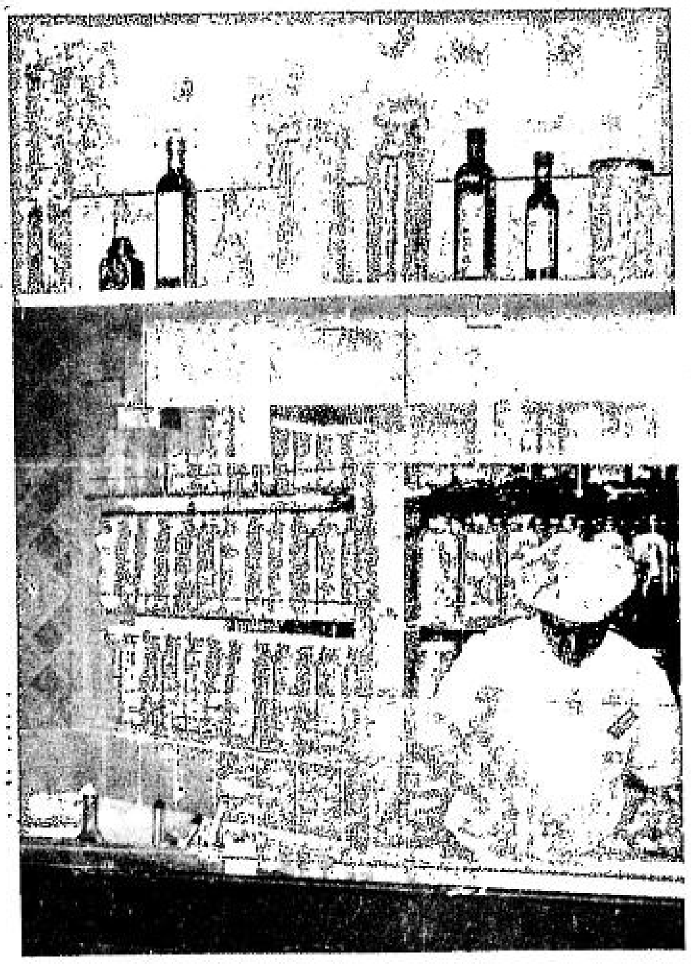
Fulfilling the needs of the family on a tight budget can be a struggle. But with a credit card like PSBank MasterCard around, you can count on getting all the help you can get in easing your financial concerns.

Apply for one now! Call 8-700-772 if you are in Metro Manila or dial our toll-free number at 1-800-1888-6227 for any inquiries.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Slicing into the pizza . . .

From page C1



THE PIZZA Company's open kitchen allows diners to watch while their food is being prepared.

BACON and cheese twist

Vegetarian and the Double Cheese pizza—that come in three sizes and a choice of pan pizza crust, crispy crust, cheese crust, sausage and cheese crust and triple crust (sausage, cheese and bacon in one crust).

Even the most jaded pizza eaters would agree that there really is something different about their pizza—it wasn't greasy and the toppings were extra-flavorful and generous. They really do take their catchphrase "Flavored to Excite" seriously. Their focus on quality is evident, they even hold blind taste tests. "If we don't win, we don't want to serve it," said William E. Heinecke, chair of The Minor Group in Thailand.

No wonder they take pride in the quality of their food. The Pizza Company's general manager Jovie L. Sabado said, "We never ever use frozen dough for our pizza. Our highly trained staff makes fresh batches of dough on a daily basis. The Pizza Company uses fine-quality cheese made from fresh milk from the best dairy herds. For our pizza sauce, we use carefully selected premium juicy red tomatoes blended with herbs and spices for the ultimate pizza sauce. And of course, we use freshly chopped vegetables and premium meat cuts for toppings."

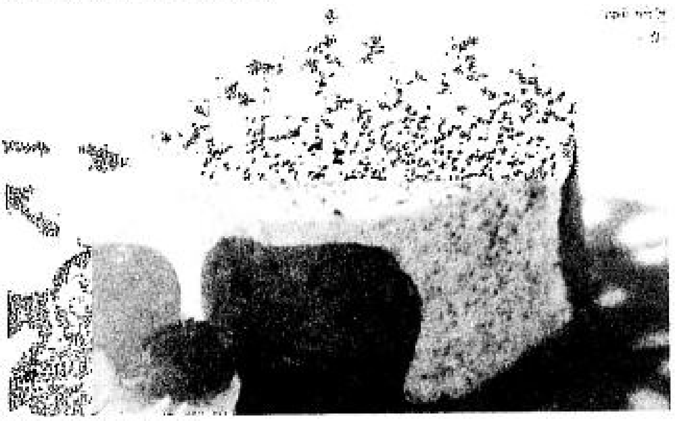
Xavier Sustaeta, CEO of Allied Brands International Master Franchising Corporation stressed, "We need fine ingredients to have a fine pizza."

The people behind The Pizza Company want an all-around pleasurable experience for their customers. "Store design evokes casual and fun ambience where friends and family can enjoy a variety of traditional and innovative pizza creations," said Efrain Pelaez, president of Alpha 8 Food Holdings Corp., the Philippine operator of The Pizza Company.

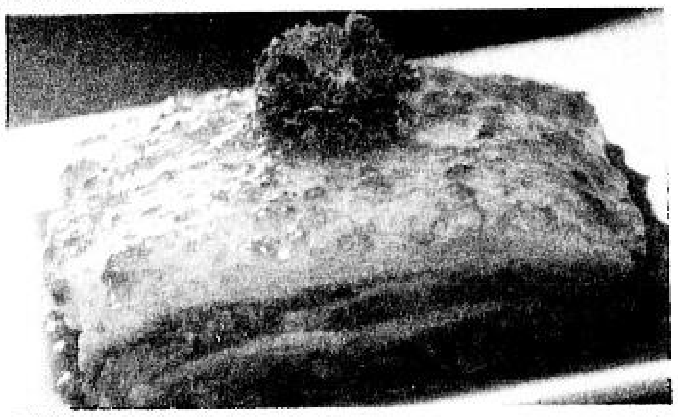
There's more to love about The Pizza Company aside from the pizza: appetizers, salads, pasta and desserts. Prices are reasonable—appetizers range from P49 to P95, an order of pasta ranges from P99 to P199 and pizza prices start at P79 (for the small classic ones) to P439 (large gourmet ones).

The Pizza Company is located at the second level main entrance of Marketl Marketl Fort Bonifacio, Taguig.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph



TIRAMISU Mousse



BEEF Lasagna

Chinoy and Spanish favorites

THE REGGIE Aspiras School of Culinary Arts will conduct the following classes:

June 24—Everyday Chinoy (all new)—Crab and Corn Soup, Pata Tim, Home-marinated Fried Pigeon Chinese style, Kiampung, Lomi, Lumpiang Shanghai, Almond Jelly

June 25—Authentic Tapas—Gambas al Ajillo, Gambas ala Plancha, Salpicao, Tortilla Española, Boquerones, Croquettas (14 delicious tiny dishes, great for entertaining); Sangria

June 27—My Favorite Easy Baking Recipes (all new)—Carrot Cake, Rum Cake, Sour Cream Apple Pie, Turtle Pie, Banana Cake, Delicious Squash Cake

June 29—Nonya-Pang Tauhu Soup, Chye Tik Kway (Steamed Radish and Carrot Cake), Nonya Fried Chicken and Salted Fish Rice, Hokkien Paella, Nonya Prawns, Kueh Pisang (Banana Pudding)

For reservations and inquiries, call 9289296, 9273008, 6335162, 0917-8399888.

Catering seminar June 24-25

PEOPLE interested in starting a food business can attend the "Catering Seminar," June 24-25, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Maya Kitchen in Makati.

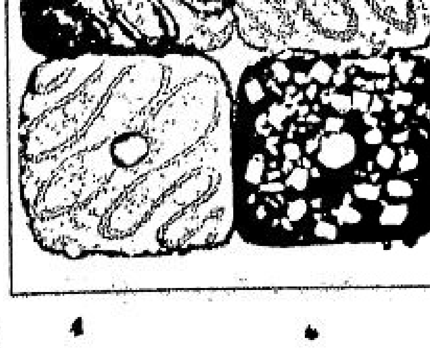
The seminar will cover the legal and technical aspects of starting a catering business, facilities, personnel and menu preparation, including portioning and quantification.

Also included is the actual cooking of popular Filipino and international dishes: Vietnamese Beef Noodle Soup, Baked Spring Rolls, Rolled Porkloin Adobo Style, Roast Stuffed Chicken Thighs with Garlic Gravy, Chicken Galantina, Vegetable Samosa, Creamed Spinach Soup, Spicy Chicken Wings, Quiche Lorraine, Eggplant Skordalia. A dessert recipe will be included as a bonus.

Participants get a free "Food Service" catering cookbook.

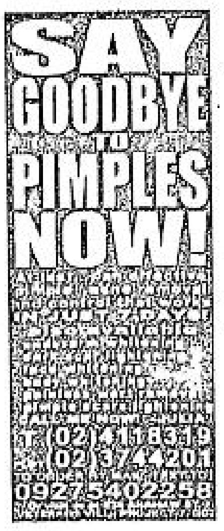
Meanwhile, learn delicious and mouthwatering chocolate recipes from "Brownies and Pies Galore," June 25, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., which will include Brownie Cheesecake, Date Nuts, Rocky Road, Black Forest, French Apple Pie, Lemon-Meringue Pie and Walnut Pie.

The Maya Kitchen (open Tuesday to Saturday) is at the 8/F Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Avenue (formerly Pasay Road), Makati City. Call 8921185 or 8925011 local 108. E-mail mktichen@ultimate.info.com.ph.



NEW SQUARE DONUT FLAVORS

Want to try something other than the usual round donuts? Try Country Style's newest Krazy Squares, the country's only square donuts with a hole. It comes in four variants—Triple Peanut Blast, with creamy peanut butter filling, crushed peanut topping and chocolate peanut butter frosting; Choco-Nut, with delicious peanut butter filling, crushed chocolate-peanut topping and chocolate drizzle; Nutty Caramel, with peanut butter filling, crushed chocolate, peanut topping and caramel frosting; and Rocky Road, with luscious chocolate filling, chocolate frosting and peanuts-marshmallow topping. Each donut costs only P18. Visit any Country Style outlets.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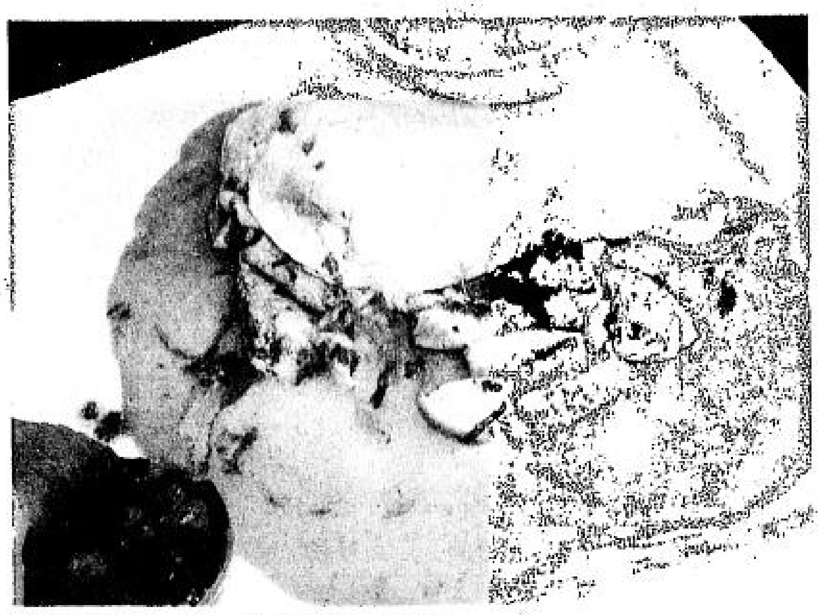
Grand Malaysian buffet

DINING OUT

THE HERITAGE Hotel Manila's Restaurant Riviera features The Heritage Grand Buffet this month. Included in this promo are Malaysian fare such as Roti Prata, Laksa, Nasi Lemak, Ikan Pangang, Mixed Satay, Beef Rendang and Atis Kacang. The seafood bar offers prawns, clams, blue marlin and red snapper. Call 8548888.

MAKATI Shangri-La's Conway's Bar offers *kilawin* delicacy this month. Savor the flavor of fresh fish in native vinegar, onions and red chili. Complement this appetizer with your favorite drink at Conway's. The Lobby Lounge presents a chocolate buffet until June 30, 6-9 p.m., Friday and Saturday. Call 8138888.

TGI FRIDAY's features Radical Burritos until August 31 at its branches in Glorietta 3, Robinsons Manila, Hotel Rembrandt-QC, Sta. Lucia East and Alabang Town Center. Featured are Kung Pao Chicken Burrito, Great Southwest Beef Burrito, Texas BBQ Pork Burrito, Asian Coconut Shrimp Burrito and Blackened Cajun Beef Burrito.



CHICKEN Curry Omelet from Museum Cafe

WESTIN Philippine Plaza's Café Plaza Too presents "The World is My Oyster" until June 30. Sample Oysters Kilpatrick, Spiced Asian Oysters and Fried Oysters with Garlic. In the Go Filipino dessert promo, relish Guava Langka in Coconut Milk, Ube Ginataan, Halo Halo with Langka and Halayang Ube, Turron with Jackfruit, Sweetened Banana with Sago Pearl and Ginataan Mais. Call 5515555.

BLUE Bay Buffet By the Bay Restaurant presents Filipino, Chinese and international dishes. The spread also features live cooking stations offering barbecues, Mongolian grill and desserts. Blue Bay Restaurant is at the corner of South Road (TM Kalaw Avenue) and Parade St., Rizal Park, Ermita, Manila. Call 4007439, 5250514 or 4007437.

THE BELLEVUE Hotel presents an international buffet of dishes like US Chuck Roll with Gravy, Lechon de Leche, Veal Parmigiana, Roast Porkloin with Pommery Mustard, Seafood Thermidore and Lamb with Mint Sauce. The hotel also offers 5+1 free lunch and shuttle service promo. Available for lunch from Monday to Friday, the promo entitles groups of six diners taking the lunch buffet to one complimentary buffet. A complimentary shuttle service around the Alabang business district is provided. Call 7718181.

HYATT Hotel and Casino Manila's Li Li Cantonese restaurant offers an eight-course set menu, which features dimsum, entrees, vegetable dish, rice or noodle and desserts. Market Cafe showcases a buffet spread of steamed, stir-fried, roasted and braised asparagus dishes. Call 2451234.

CASA Armas features Paella, Conchinillo, Roasted Pig, Lengua, Estofada, Pollo Asado, Callos a la Madrilena, Pechugas de Pollo Albino Tinto, King Crab a la Tan Long. The restaurant is located at the 3/L Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center (7574996); Jupiter St., Bel-Air Village, Makati (8973542); and The Podium, Ortigas Center (6873663).

CRUSTASIA Restaurant offers Crab Maritess, Fidel's Pepper Crab, Szechuan Crab, Pooja, Thai Crab Sotanghon, Vietnamese-Style Sinigang, Grilled Fish in Banana Leaf with Lemon Grass, Thai Shrimp Pancakes, Chao Tom and Deep-fried Calamari with Chili Plum Sauce. Crustasia is located at Rockwell Power Plant Mall, Makati (7285463) and The Podium (6313857).

PANCAKE House introduces four vegetable salad choices: Asian Salad, Summer Salad, Fruity Salad and Western Salad. Asian Salad mixes pomelo, shrimps, tofu cubes, coriander leaves, lettuce, fresh turnips, cucumber and Asian vinaigrette. Summer Salad combines lettuce, carrots, mango, bell pepper, celery, olives, spicy *bangus* and lemon vinaigrette. Fruity Salad consists of fresh ripe mangoes, avocado, grapes, papaya, lettuce, cucumber, cheddar cheese cubes, olives, croutons, lemon and mustard dressing. Western Salad mixes lettuce, young corn, asparagus, tomatoes, cheddar cheese cubes, turnips, olives, roasted chicken strips, hard-boiled egg slices, mayonnaise and mustard.

THE MUSEUM Café offers breakfast fare like M Benedict, Curry Chicken Omelet, Banana Peanut Butter Waffles, Beef Tenderloin Congee. Breakfast is served from 6:30 to 10:30 a.m. daily. The Museum Cafe is located at the G/F Ayala Museum's Glass Wing in Greenbelt 4, Makati. Call 7573000/ 7576000.

KALYE JUAN combines the charm of open-air dining and home-cooked tasting Filipino food. Sisig sa Kalye is available for only P140, enough for two persons. Sizzling Pusit costs P98 and Boneless Chicken Barbecue, only P90. Kalye Juan is at CKB Center, T. Morato cor. Scout Rallos, Quezon City. It is open until 12 midnight, Sunday to Thursday, and 1 a.m., Friday to Saturday.

Ñ RESTAURANT opens Sangria Bar with at least 10 flavors to choose from: Casa Sangria, Sangria Blanco, Sangria Rose, Sangria Naranja, Sangria Fuerte, Sangria de Fiesta, Sangria de Frutas, Sangria de Coco Banana, Sangria Oriental and Sangria Tropical. Wednesdays are Girls' Night Out where all ladies get bottomless sangria drinks for free between 9-11 p.m.

CONGO Grille features New Zealand Mussels, Crispy Tuna Tail, Congo Rice and Congo Mango, Crispy Pata, Grilled Pusit, Sisig, Kare-kare and Tuna Belly. Congo Grille is located in SM Fairview; Bohol Avenue, QC; El Pueblo, Ortigas; Pasay Road, Makati; and Westgate Center, Filinvest, Alabang. Call Congo Grille SM Fairview at 9308874/ 9351485.

May Gulay makes cooking easier

HOMEMAKERS will find it faster and easier to cook some of the family's favorite foods with the recent launch of the Department of Agriculture's Project *May Gulay* at the SM Supermarket in Megamall.

Vice President Noli de Castro, Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap, and SM president Tessie Sy-Coson led the simple ribbon cutting ceremonies.

Under the project, pre-packed vegetables for *pinakbet*, *sinigang*, and *chopsuey* will be available at the supermarket at very affordable prices, according to Yap. The vegetables come in half-kilo packs, good for a family of five, and priced at P25 each.

De Castro said Project May Gulay was in time for the rainy season as it would ensure a regular and stable supply of vegetables in Metro Manila at affordable prices during the rainy season.

Wrapped in plastic, the vegetables have a shelf life of at least three days, even up to a week when refrigerated.

Described as *"mura na, masarap na, pagkaing sapat at abot-kaya,"* the May Gulay packs make preparing family meals easier as the vegetables are all ready and cut. They only have to be added to meat, seasoning and broth.

The *pinakbet* package includes *ampalaya*, squash, string beans, eggplant and okra. The *sinigang* package has *kangkong*, radish, string beans, *gabi*, okra and *siling haba*. The *chopsuey* package, is a mix of Baguio beans, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, bell peppers, *sayote* and *chicharo*.

Project May Gulay packs are available at SM Supermarket branches.

Chopsuey
MayGulay
Sinigang

"MAY Gulay" vegetables are available in three variations: *pinakbet*, *sinigang* and *chopsuey*.

Saturday cooking classes for kids

VICKY Veloso-Barrera's Tiny Kitchen is holding Saturday cooking classes for kids.

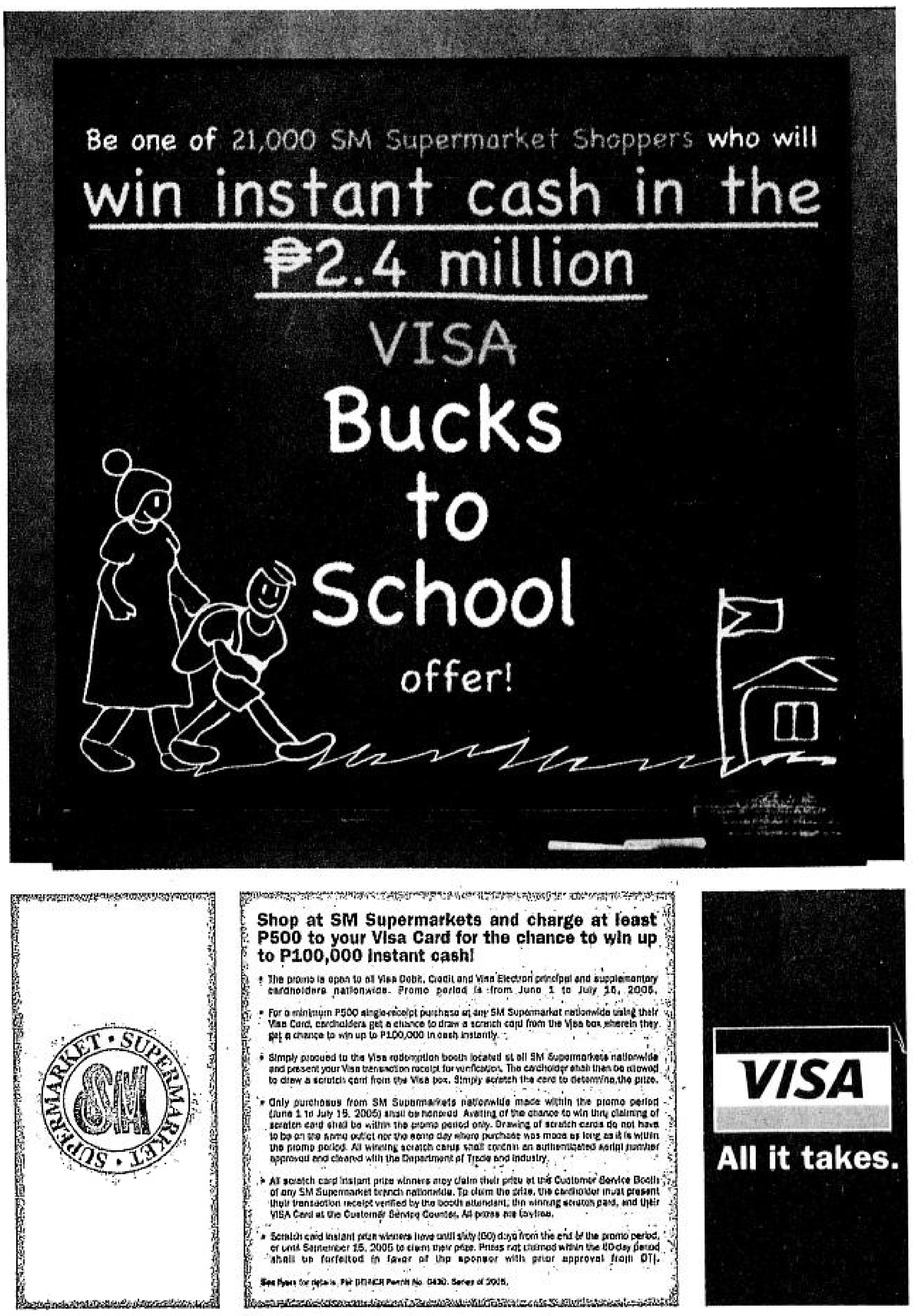
The morning session will be conducted 9-11 a.m. while the afternoon session is from 2-4 p.m. Children aged 4-6 learn two dishes per session while those aged 7 and up learn four.

All classes are conducted at Barrera's Quezon City home. Only seven children are accepted per class.

Wednesday and Thursday classes are being conducted for *balikbayans*, students from international and local schools that don't have classes on those days.

The fee for children aged 4-6 is P700 per session while for those aged 7 and up is P1,000. Classes are 100 percent hands on and children take home what they make.

Call 4102279 or 0916-5165035.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- The promo is open to all Visa Debit, Credit and Visa Electron principal and supplementary cardholders nationwide. Promo period is from June 1 to July 15, 2005.
- For a minimum P500 single-receipt purchase at any SM Supermarket nationwide using their Visa Card, cardholders get a chance to draw a scratch card from the Visa box wherein they get a chance to win up to P100,000 in cash instantly.
- Simply proceed to the Visa redemption booth located at all SM Supermarkets nationwide and present your Visa transaction receipt for verification. The cardholder shall then be allowed to draw a scratch card from the Visa box. Simply scratch the card to determine the prize.
- Only purchases from SM Supermarkets nationwide made within the promo period (June 1 to July 15, 2005) shall be honored. Availing of the chance to win thru claiming of scratch card shall be within the promo period only. Drawing of scratch cards do not have to be on the same outlet nor the same day where purchase was made as long as it is within the promo period. All winning scratch cards shall contain an authenticated serial number approved and cleared with the Department of Trade and Industry.
- All scratch card instant prize winners may claim their prize at the Customer Service Booth of any SM Supermarket branch nationwide. To claim the prize, the cardholder must present their transaction receipt verified by the booth attendant, the winning scratch card, and their VISA Card at the Customer Service Counter. All prizes are taxfree.
- Scratch card instant prize winners have until sixty (60) days from the end of the promo period, or until September 15, 2005 to claim their prize. Prizes not claimed within the 60-day period shall be forfeited in favor of the sponsor with prior approval from DTI.

See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0430. Series of 2005.

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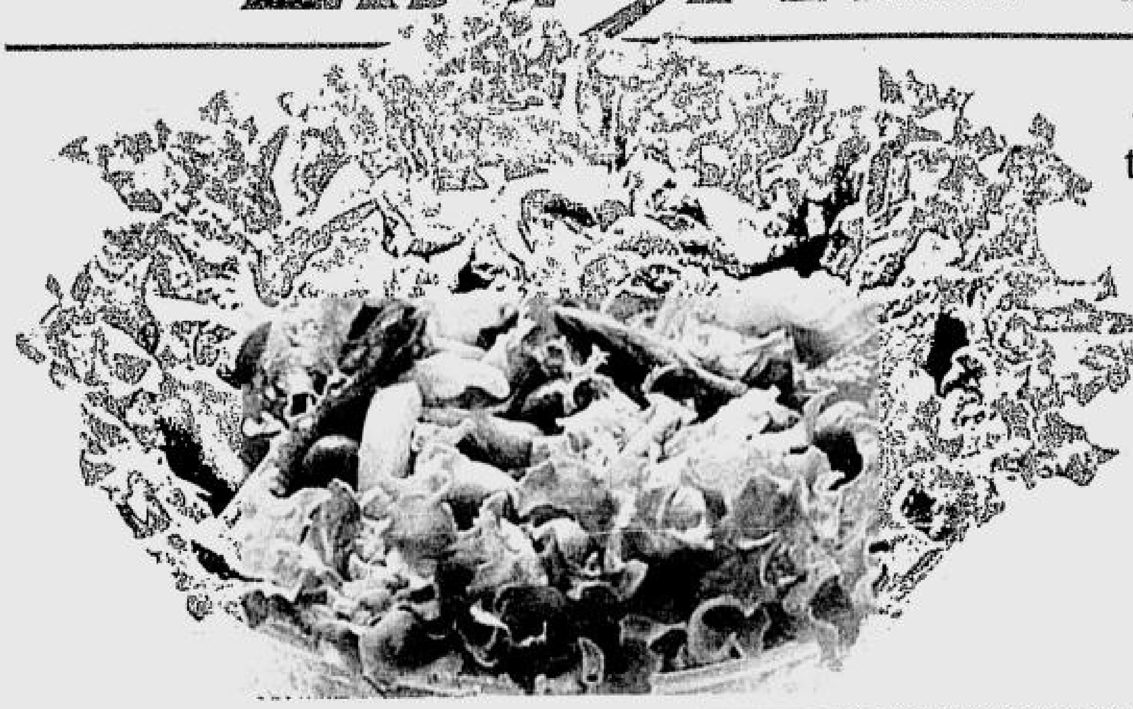


Always use the freshest and finest ingredients and add the dressing just before serving

'Dressing up' salads

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

MANY things excite me, and getting decent food for a song is certainly one of them.

Imagine this, a dim sum platter filled with Steamed Shrimp Dumplings, Steamed Pork Siomai, Fried Taro Puffs, Sesame Rolls of Fried Shrimp and Garlic and Seafood Rolls enough for six hearty eaters for only P550. Yes, it does exist! I fell off my seat when I saw how huge the platter was. (China Bistro, Kirby Building, Libis beside Mercury Drug, fronting Eastwood)

Salad bar

I am Celeste, a single mom who opened recently a small café in the university belt area. I would like to ask your help in making a salad bar because students like salad. *Sana po* you can help me. I really need extra income for me and my child. Please include some popular dressings like Thousand Island and Caesar and some new kinds.

I usually try my best to answer as many requests on Kitchen Rescue each week. If I remember right, I never devoted a whole article to just one request but yours is a different story. For you and your child, Celeste, anything! Good luck to you!

Hints for making the perfect salad:

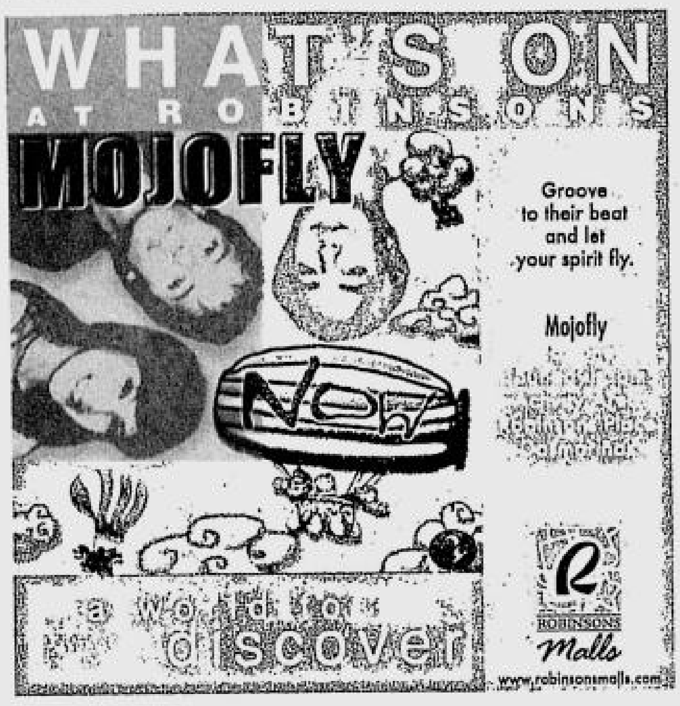
- Soak greens in cold water and vinegar solution (1 gallon water : 2 tsp vinegar) for 5 minutes. Rinse in cold water. Spin dry!
- Refrigerate salad greens.
- Always use the freshest and finest ingredients.
- Use freshly cracked pepper.
- To store salad greens, wash and spin very dry. Wrap in Glad zipper bags—lasts a week
- Only toss dressing before serving.

Salad bar components (Choose from this list):

- Greens—mixed lettuce, serve whole, torn or chopped/julienned
- Watercress
- Arugula
- Tomatoes, wedged or chopped
- Onions
- Cucumbers
- Carrots
- Beets
- Radishes
- Boiled baby potatoes
- Assorted vegetables—blanched—broccoli, cauliflower, asparagus
- Peppers—bell pepper (fresh or grilled), salad peppers

DRESSING/ D4

Gourmet Classes with Chef Dennis Hipolito
#137 9th Street corner Baleta Drive, New Manila, Quezon City
About Chef Dennis: Dean's List graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park, NY/Food Stylist/* Owner of Joconde Cakes/* Took over classes from the Famed Gourmet, Maur Aquino Lichauco in New Manila/*Trained under the tutelage of World Pastry Cup Champion En-Ming Hsu of the Ritz Carlton Chicago (a Four Seasons Hotel), Dan Budd of Park Avenue Café Chicago, Cake Stylist Betty Van Norstrand, Food Stylist Delores Custer and other instructors in the Philippines
July 2, 2005: BREADS FOR THE HOLIDAYS (Great Holiday Breads) NEW CLASS Bavarian Cream Filled Pull Apart Bread, Panettone, Filled Pan de Sal (Chicken and Corned Beef), Christmas Stollen, Cornbread -P1600
July 9, 2005: SINFUL CHOCOLATE TREATS (A Truly Sinful Set of Treats) NEW CLASS Buttery Chocolate and Oreo Cookies, Chocolate Mallow Cheesecake Bars, Chocolate Orange Bundt Cake, White Chocolate Macadamia Cookies, Chocolate Almond and Coconut Macaroons-P1600
July 16, 2005: DESSERTS FOR ENTERTAINING (Irresistible!) Super Moist Prune Cake, Apple Pie with Butterscotch Sauce, Banana Rum Loaf, Blueberry Angel Food Torte, Sticky Date Pudding-P1600
July 23, 2005: HOLIDAY BARS & COOKIES (Great for Gift Giving) NEW CLASS Toblerone and Cashew Cookies, Oreo Butter Bars, Rum Cake Graham Bars, Triple Chocolate Cookies, Chocolate Chunk Butterscotch Bars - P1600
July 30, 2005: BUNDT CAKES 3 (Rave Reviews Awaits These) NEW CLASS Decadent Chocolate Rum Cake, Lemon and Lime Honey Bundt Cake, Strawberries and Cream Bundt Cake, Butter Brickle Bundt, Peanut Butter & Banana Cake-P1600
*Classes include: Ingredients, Recipe Hand Outs, and Product Shares.
*For Inquiries and Reservations: **Please call or text 0917-8486656** or **email us at gourmetpastry@aol.com.** LOOK for **GIRARD** or **YVETTE.**
*CLASSES ARE: 1:00PM-4:30PM (Limited Seats Available)



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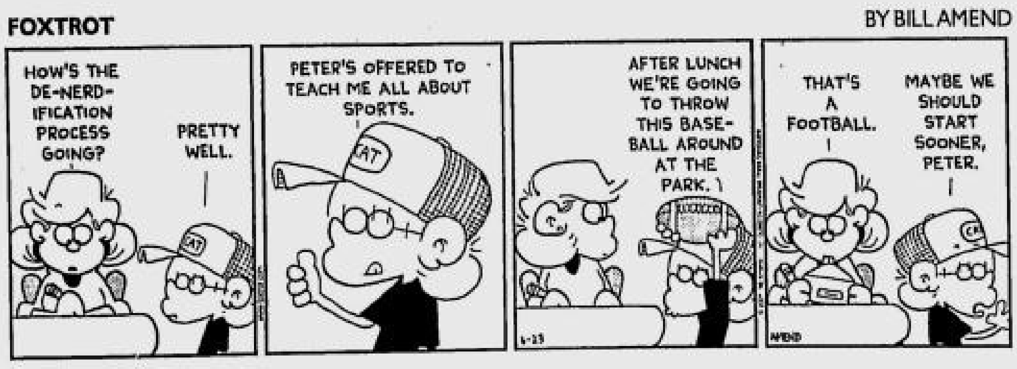
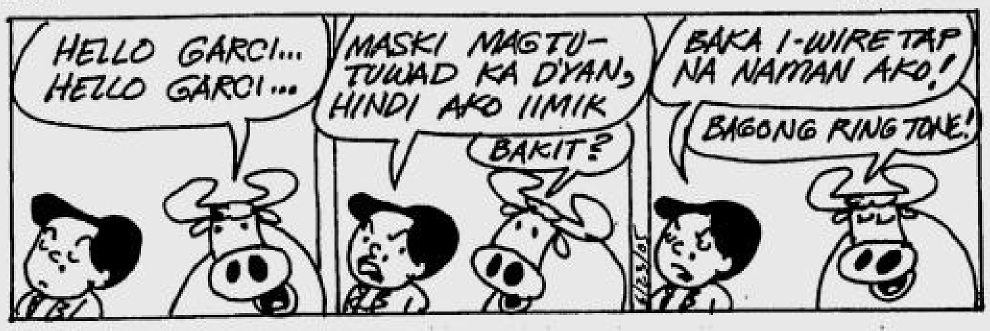
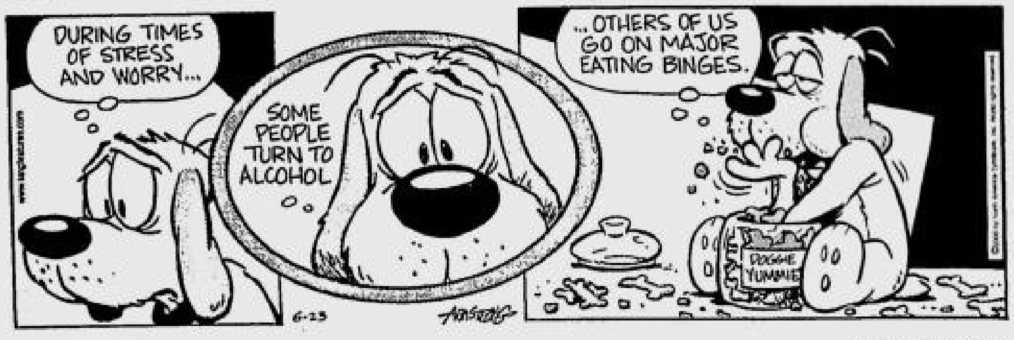
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


HOW'S THE DE-NERD-IFICATION PROCESS GOING?
PRETTY WELL.
PETER'S OFFERED TO TEACH ME ALL ABOUT SPORTS.
AFTER LUNCH WE'RE GOING TO THROW THIS BASEBALL AROUND AT THE PARK.
THAT'S A FOOTBALL.
MAYBE WE SHOULD START SOONER, PETER.
6-23
AMEND

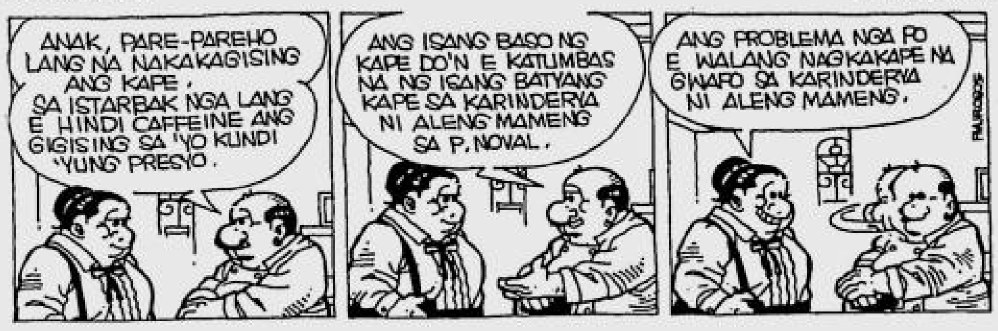
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


HELLO GARCI... HELLO GARCI...
MASKI MAGTUTUWAD KA D'YAN, HINDI AKO IIMIK
BAKIT?
BAKA I-WIRETAP NA NAMAN AKO!
BAGONG RING TONE!
6/23/05

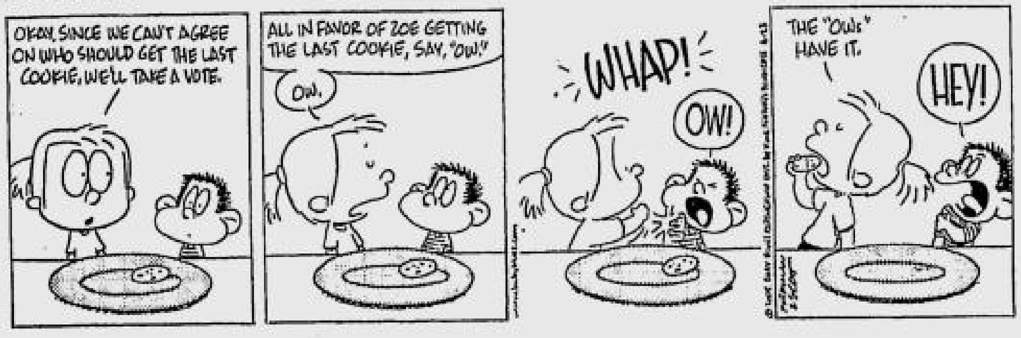
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


DURING TIMES OF STRESS AND WORRY...
SOME PEOPLE TURN TO ALCOHOL
...OTHERS OF US GO ON MAJOR EATING BINGES.
DOGGIE YUMMIES
6-23
ARMSTRONG

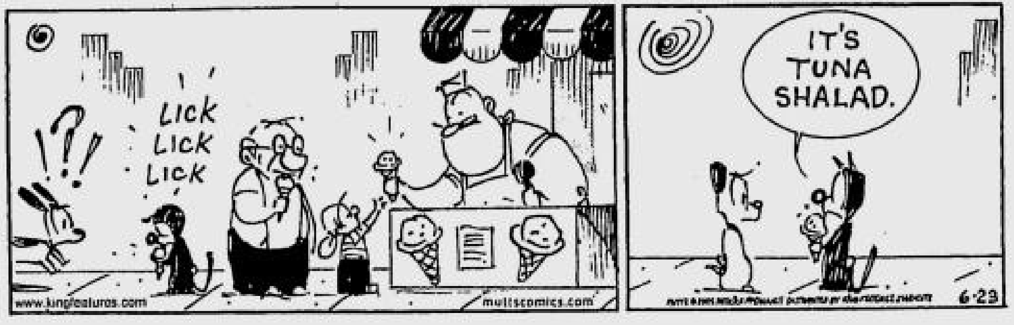
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


ANAK, PARE-PAREHO LANG NA NAKAKAGISING ANG KAPE. SA ISTARBAK NGA LANG E HINDI CAFFEINE ANG GIGISING SA 'YO KUNDI 'YUNG PRESYO.
ANG ISANG BASO NG KAPE DO'N E KATUMBAS NA NG ISANG BATYANG KAPE SA KARINDERYA NI ALENG MAMENG SA P. NOVAL.
ANG PROBLEMA NGA PO E WALANG NAGKAKAPE NA GWAPO SA KARINDERYA NI ALENG MAMENG.

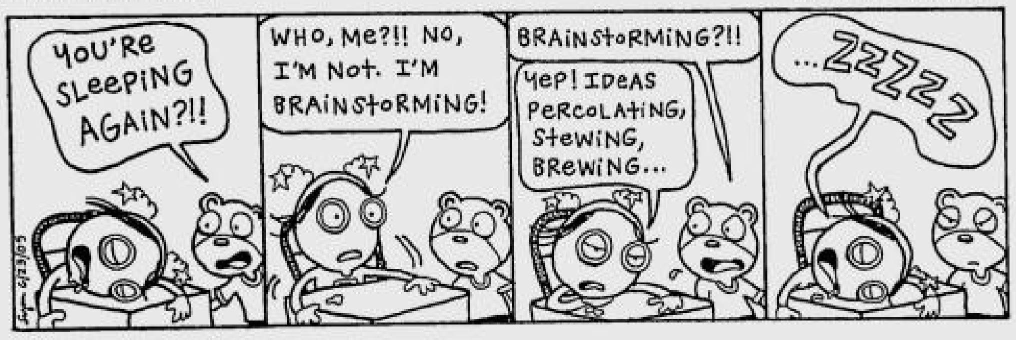
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


OKAY, SINCE WE CAN'T AGREE ON WHO SHOULD GET THE LAST COOKIE, WE'LL TAKE A VOTE.
ALL IN FAVOR OF ZOE GETTING THE LAST COOKIE, SAY, "OW."
OW.
WHAP!
OW!
THE "OWS" HAVE IT.
HEY!

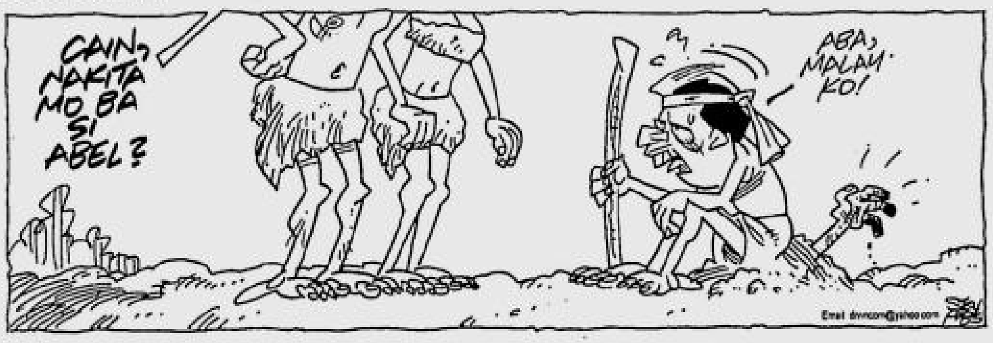
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


LICK LICK LICK
IT'S TUNA SHALAD.
www.kingfeatures.com
muttscomics.com
6-23

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


YOU'RE SLEEPING AGAIN?!!
WHO, ME?!! NO, I'M NOT. I'M BRAINSTORMING!
BRAINSTORMING?!!
YEP! IDEAS PERCOLATING, STEWING, BREWING...
...ZZZZZ
6/23/05

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


CAIN, NAKITA MO BA SI ABEL?
ABA, MALAY KO!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are a complete romantic. You can be extremely focused on your closest relationships. You have magical feelings about love, and often share your points of view with others. You know that people need physical intimacy and caring love. Many of you study human relationships professionally. In the year ahead, major areas of your life will come to a close to create room for something new.
Birthdate of: Frances McDormand, actress; Selma Blair, actress; June Carter Cash, singer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Today is not a good day to ask for agreement from family members, bosses or parents. You will find more cooperation tomorrow or even later.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Your efforts to communicate with others meet with opposition today. Keep figuring out your plans, but don't present them to anyone—not yet.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Just because somebody else's values aren't the same as yours doesn't mean you can't do what you want with your own money. We all spend money differently.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Conversations with friends and partners are a bit strained today. Therefore, don't push your luck. This is not the day to bring up important subjects or have big discussions.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): For a number of reasons, you might be filled with feelings of self-doubt or inadequacy today. These have no basis in reality! It's just a passing dark cloud on your horizon.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Discussions with friends and groups are blocked or strained. Therefore, keep your conversations with others light and breezy. Don't push the river (not today).

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Demands at home might interfere with your efforts to deal with your external world. Nevertheless, focus on your career if you can.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): It's hard to be objective in discussions with others. It's as if people don't hear you! Just remember: Shouting doesn't make them hear you any better.

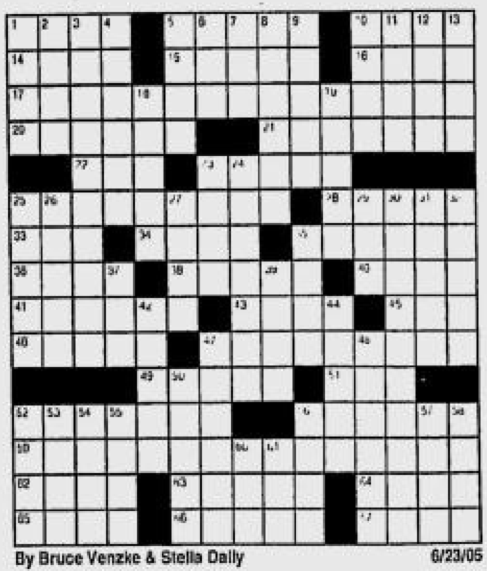
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): It's OK to agree to disagree. That's your best solution. Don't try to make others see things your way. Tomorrow will be a better day to do this.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): If you feel that others oppose your wishes today, don't push things. Just let it be. The fact is, you will make better progress doing whatever you want to do—tomorrow. Patience.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Your best bet is to work alone as much as possible today. You might be disappointed in the efforts of others, especially co-workers. Don't comment about this. Tomorrow, things will look different.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Misunderstandings with lovers and romantic interests are possible today. You feel disappointed or let down in some way. Don't dwell on this. You'll feel quite different tomorrow.

DAILY CROSSWORD

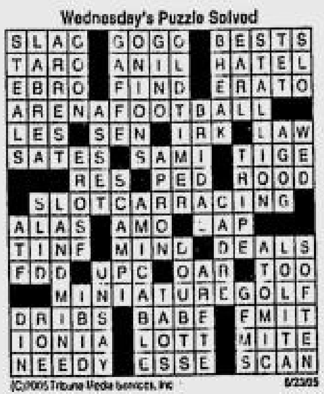


By Bruce Venzke & Stella Daily
Madison, WI
6/23/05

ACROSS
1 Shortened shots?
5 Dreary
10 Exam for jrs.
14 Halt
15 Musical variety show
16 Not fooled by
17 Start of a quip
20 Head honcho
21 Crowd disperser
22 Unit of illumination
23 Thorax
25 Part 2 of quip
28 __ Park, CO
33 Go a few rounds
34 Coagulate
35 Confront boldly
36 Mayberry boy
38 Bacon or Lamb paper
40 Nora's pooch
41 Noggin
43 Fractions of 100
45 E or G, e.g.
46 Tedium
47 Part 3 of quip
49 Actor Nick
51 Cape Horn tribesman
52 Inactive medication
56 Mortarboard attachment
59 End of quip
62 Sprightly song
63 Journalist Alexander
64 Ustinov in "Quo Vadis"
65 Partner of odds
66 Odorific compound
67 Piccadilly Circus statue

DOWN
1 Sibilant signal
2 Me also
3 Natural coloration
4 Increased pace
5 Sailor's jail
6 NASA vehicle
7 Holiday prelude
8 "Emma" writer
9 "Flowers for Algernon" author
10 Officiate at tea
11 Unforeseen obstacle
12 Gillette blade
13 On one's __ (alert)
18 Poisonous
19 Horse opera
23 Corp. bigwigs
24 Popular nightclub
25 Steakhouse choice
26 Climb aboard
27 High spirits
29 Adriatic or Caspian
30 Bully boss
31 Cosmetician Lauder
32 Remains
35 Memory unit
37 Academic URL ending
39 High point
42 Cruise ship
44 Ermine in summer
47 Three-toed creatures
48 Psychotic
50 Too flabby
52 Journalist Ernie
53 Pork portion
54 "__ Lang Syne"
55 "Memory" musical
56 Russian ruler
57 Fresh Greek bread?
58 Most August babies
60 Role indicator
61 Chemical suffix

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved



S	L	A	C	■	G	O	G	G	■	B	E	S	T	S
T	A	R	O	■	A	N	I	L	■	H	A	T	E	L
E	B	R	O	■	F	I	N	D	■	E	R	A	T	O
A	R	E	N	A	F	O	O	T	B	A	L	L	■	■
L	E	S	■	S	E	N	■	I	R	K	■	L	A	W
S	A	T	E	S	■	S	A	M	I	■	T	I	G	E
■	■	■	R	E	S	■	P	E	D	■	R	O	O	D
■	S	L	O	T	C	A	R	R	A	C	I	N	G	■
A	L	A	S	■	A	M	O	■	L	A	P	■	■	■
T	I	N	F	■	M	I	N	D	■	D	E	A	L	S
F	D	D	■	U	P	C	■	O	A	R	■	T	O	O
■	■	M	I	N	I	A	T	U	R	E	G	O	L	F
D	R	I	B	S	■	B	A	B	E	■	F	M	I	T
I	O	N	I	A	■	L	O	T	T	■	M	I	T	E
N	E	E	D	Y	■	E	S	S	E	■	S	C	A	N

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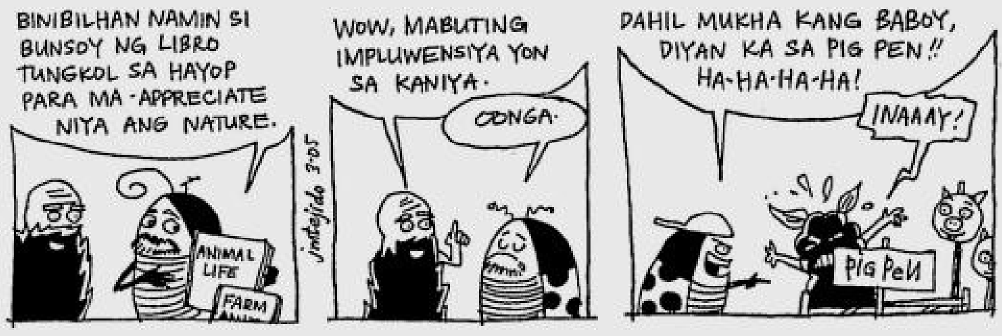
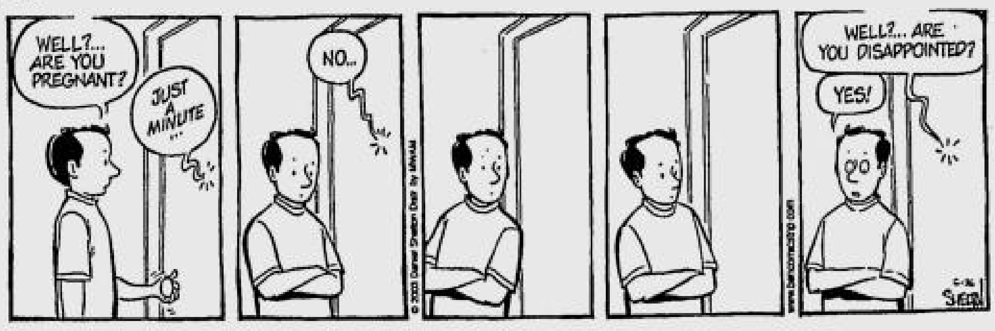
6/23/05

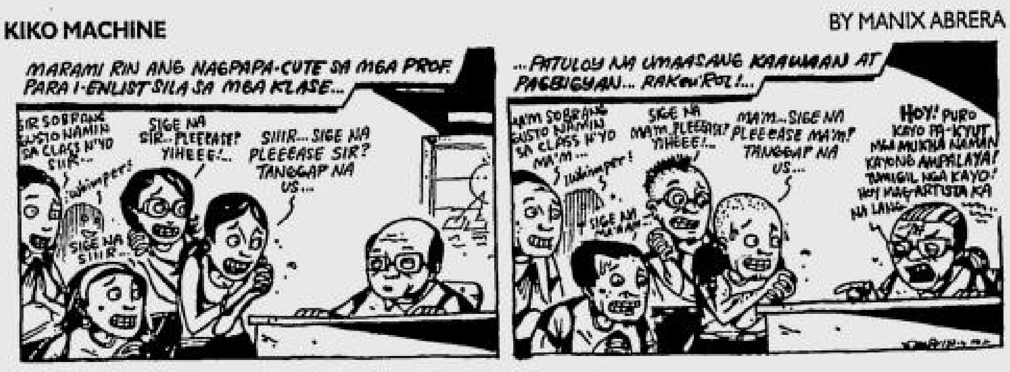
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


BINIBILHAN NAMIN SI BUNSOY NG LIBRO TUNGKOL SA HAYOP PARA MA-APPRECIATE NIYA ANG NATURE.
ANIMAL LIFE
FARM
WOW, MABUTING IMPLUWENSIYA YON SA KANIYA.
OONGA.
DAHIL MUKHA KANG BABOY, DIYAN KA SA PIG PEN!! HA-HA-HA-HA!
INAAAY!
PIG PEN
jmtejido 7-05

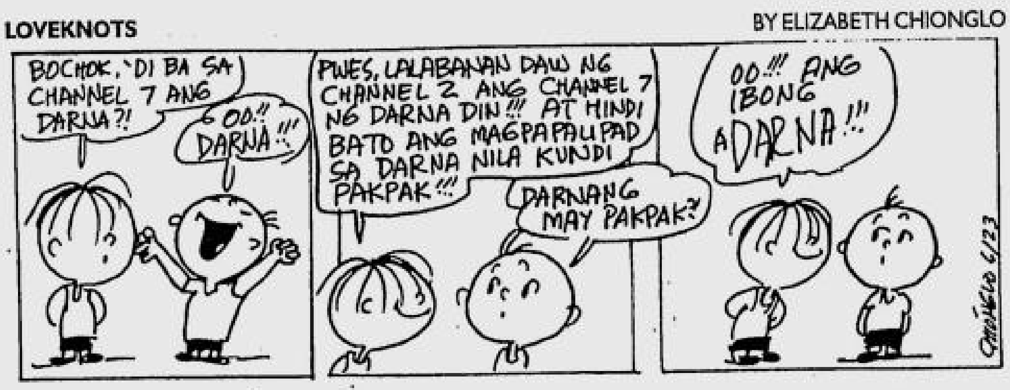
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


WELL?... ARE YOU PREGNANT?
JUST A MINUTE...
NO...
WELL?... ARE YOU DISAPPOINTED?
YES!

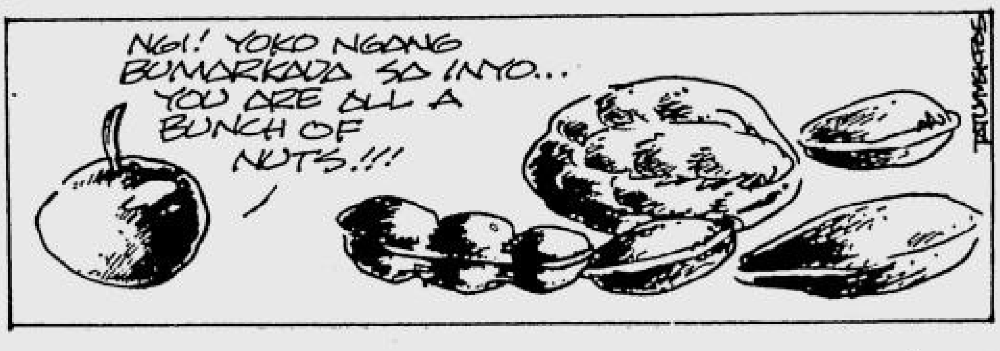
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


MARAMI RIN ANG NAGPAPA-CUTE SA MGA PROF PARA I-ENLIST SILA SA MGA KLASE...
SIR SOBRANG GUSTO NAMIN SA CLASS N'YO SIIR...
whimper!
SIGE NA SIR... PLEEEASE? YIHEEE!..
SIIIR... SIGE NA PLEEEASE SIR? TANGGAP NA US...
SIGE NA SIIIR...
...PATULOY NA UMAASANG KAAWAAN AT PAGBIGYAN... RAKEN'ROL!...
MA'M SOBRANG GUSTO NAMIN SA CLASS N'YO MA'M...
whimper!
SIGE NA MA'M PLEEEASE? YIHEEE!..
MA'M...SIGE NA PLEEEASE MA'M? TANGGAP NA US...
SIGE NA MA'AM...
HOY! PURO KAYO PA-KYUT MUKHA NAMAN KAYONG AMPALAYA! TUMIGIL NGA KAYO! HOY MAG-ARTISTA KA NA LANG...

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


BOCHOK, 'DI BA SA CHANNEL 7 ANG DARNA?!
OO!! DARNA!!!
PWES, LALABANAN DAW NG CHANNEL 2 ANG CHANNEL 7 NG DARNA DIN!!! AT HINDI BATO ANG MAGPAPALIPAD SA DARNA NILA KUNDI PAKPAK!!!
DARNANG MAY PAKPAK?
OO!!! ANG IBONG ADARNA!!!
CHIONGLO 6/23

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


NGI! YOKO NGANG BUMARKADA SA INYO... YOU ARE ALL A BUNCH OF NUTS!!!

Senior citizens have yet to enjoy grocery discount

Nine basic necessities and prime commodities should be cheaper by 5 percent to senior citizens

THE CONSUMER
Marietta Velasco Giron

EUFEMIA Estrada, a fellow writer and a senior citizen, asked if we noticed how the price of grocery items had increased lately at our favorite supermarket in Greenhills. She also wanted to know, "Could this be a move by the supermarket management in anticipation of the newly expanded senior citizens' act that gives a five-percent discount on basic commodities?"

She noted, "Very few people know about the senior citizen discount for basic commodities, which was included in the 2-year-old Expanded Senior Citizen Act of 2003 (Republic Act 9257), but which was only announced in the media this May."

To avail of the discount at the groceries, however, senior citizens need to present to the cashier an official purchase booklet, issued by the local Office for Senior Citizens Affairs (Osca). The trouble is, for us San Juan residents, our local Osca has yet to release the booklet.

Estrada said she noticed the higher prices of certain items when she shopped for her groceries at Unimart last June 8. She cited the price of a 1.8-liter Baguio Corn Oil which increased to P190.50, from P180.50. "Even a non-basic product like *chorizo* Bilbao, El Rey brand, now costs P131.50 a pair, up from P115," she said.

We visited the supermarket, as she suggested, to check the prices of grocery items. We also got the comments of other elderly shoppers. Estrada was right—only a few of them knew about the discount. Asked about the privilege and the price hike, one senior citizen pointedly remarked, "What the government is giving us with the right hand, private business is taking back with the left hand."

To clear the air, we sought out Unimart's longtime manager, Y.K. Liong, and asked him to comment on Estrada's observation.

"The last price increase for some of our grocery items had nothing to do whatsoever with the forthcoming implementation of the five-percent discount for senior citizens... the price of commodities in our store is determined by price changes set by our suppliers," Liong explained.

In addition, he said the Osca had not yet released the official purchase booklets. To avail of the five-percent discount for prime and basic commodities, senior citizens need to present the Osca identification card with the grocery purchase booklet.

"We value our customers and, if we can help it, we don't want to increase prices. They are welcome to call our customer service hotline at 7210592."

What are the basic grocery items?

We got the following information on the expanded senior citizens act from Tina Lubrio of the consumer welfare desk of the Department of Trade and Industry-Bureau of Trade Regulations and Consumer Protection (8977384):

Every senior citizen (aged 60 years and above) can avail of the special discount of five percent on the price of nine basic necessities and prime commodities. The total discount for purchases shall not exceed the quota of P650 per week. If that quota is not used up, the balance is forfeited and cannot be applied to the following week's purchases.

The discount applies to these "basic necessities and prime commodities": canned sardines, tuna; evaporated, condensed and powdered filled milk; coffee; bread; white and brown sugar; cooking oil; instant noodles; powdered, liquid, bar/laundry and detergent soap.

Also included are luncheon meat, meat loaf, corned beef; frozen/refrigerated/preserved/ ready-to-cook pork, beef and chicken.

Discount is only available at the following retail outlets: supermarkets, grocery stores, convenience and mini-convenience stores/shops, bakeries. Excluded are *sari-sari* stores, wet markets, *talipapa* and cooperative stores.

Delayed bill

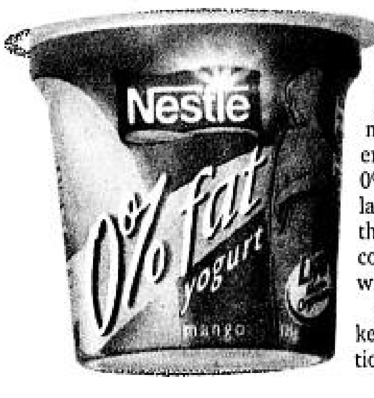
A resident of Singalong, Manila, is asking Maynilad to act on the delayed delivery of bills. The resident wrote: "This must be the fourth time that my bill was delivered on or after payment was supposed to be due. For example, today (May 25), my latest bill from Maynilad was delivered. But the bill said payment was due May 23. How can they be so irresponsible to deliver the bill two days after payment was due?"

Praises for good guys

A frequent taxi rider sent us this note: "How about a good word for this rare taxi driver who advises customers to turn off their cellular phone while he is loading gasoline at a station? The driver of Herana taxi did just that, asking me politely to turn off my cell phone as he had his gasoline tank filled. How many people actually remember that the use of cellular phones in gasoline stations may start an explosion or a fire?"

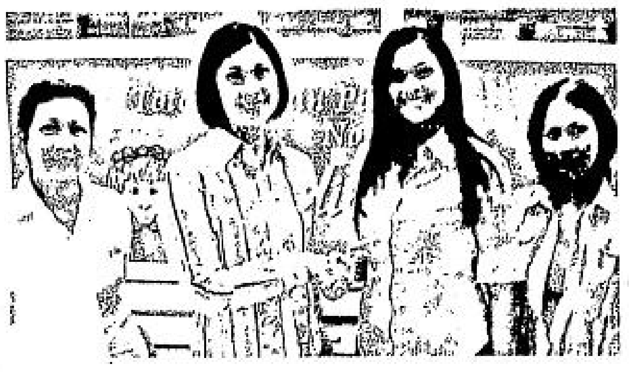
New fruity yogurt flavors

NESTLÉ 0% Fat Yogurt contains millions of live microorganisms that help improve digestion and promote overall good health. With delectable fruit bits blended in smooth and creamy yogurt, you can feast without guilt because the product is fat-free.



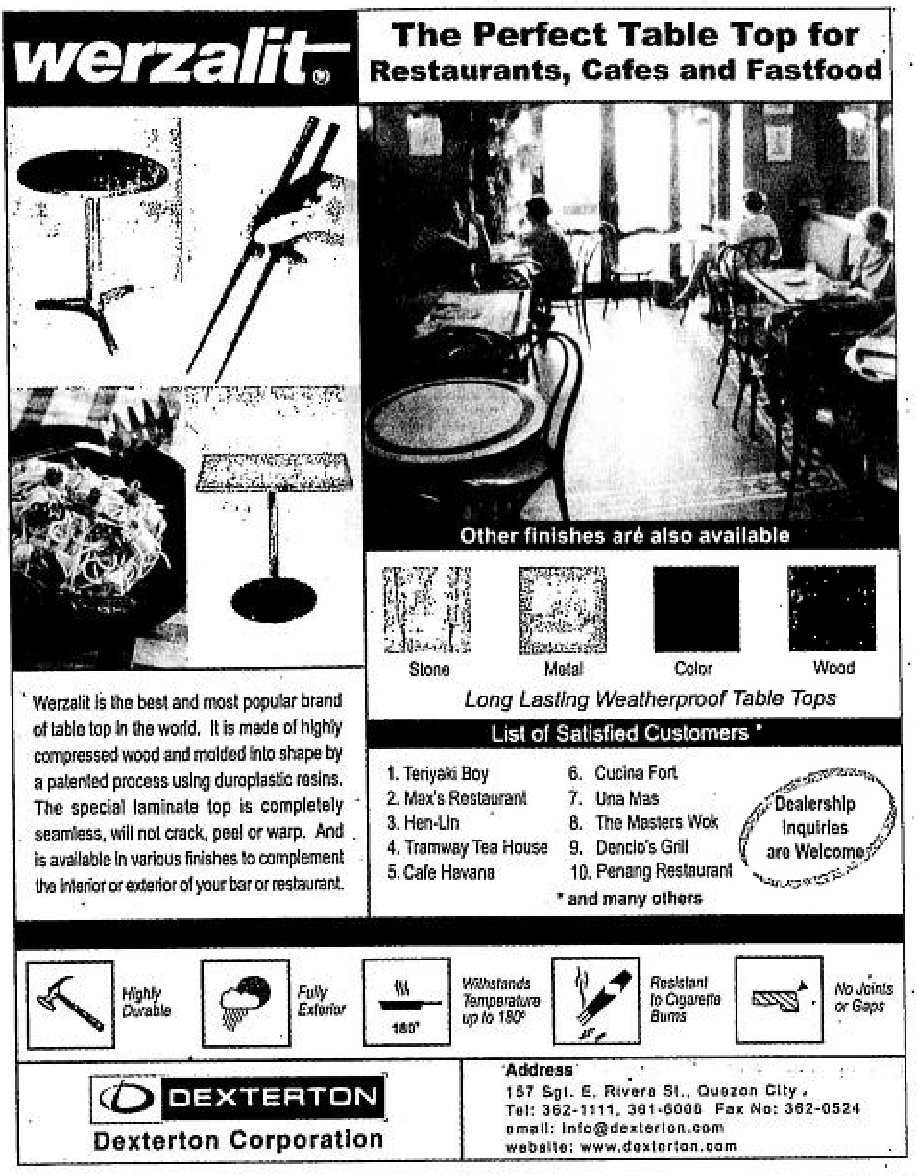
A cup of Nestlé 0% Fat Yogurt is ideal for breakfast or snacking in between meals. Enjoy it in strawberry and mango variants. You can also enjoy these fruit flavors in Nestlé 0% Fat Yogurt Drink. To stimulate your taste buds, why not try the latest apple kiwi flavor? It contains healthful apple bits with the zing of kiwi.

Available in leading supermarkets and convenience stores nationwide.



TWO AWARD WINNERS
In line with its commitment to offer the best Filipino fast-food dishes, Goldilocks signs popular TV and film star Iza Calzado as product endorser for its Chicken Barbeque. Both the company and the actress have enjoyed a stellar year so far, winning several awards: Goldilocks was named by the Philippine Franchise Association as Outstanding Filipino Franchise of the Year, and was once again recognized as a Filipino Superbrand. Calzado recently won an Urian award for Best Supporting Actress, complementing her Golden Screen Award for performance by an actress. With them are Ces Estrella of AB Communications; Pinky T. Yee, marketing director of Goldilocks; Calzado; and Prescilla Teodoro of GMA Artist Center.

NEW ROASTED CHICKEN
Coinciding with its year-long 10th anniversary offerings, Kenny Rogers introduces California Roast. The latest addition to its array of roasted chicken, California Roast is seasoned with herbs and spices such as oregano, paprika, thyme, curry, black pepper and minced onions.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List of Satisfied Customers *

1. Teriyaki Boy
2. Max's Restaurant
3. Hen-Lin
4. Tramway Tea House
5. Cafe Havana
6. Cucina Fort
7. Una Mas
8. The Masters Wok
9. Dencio's Grill
10. Penang Restaurant

* and many others

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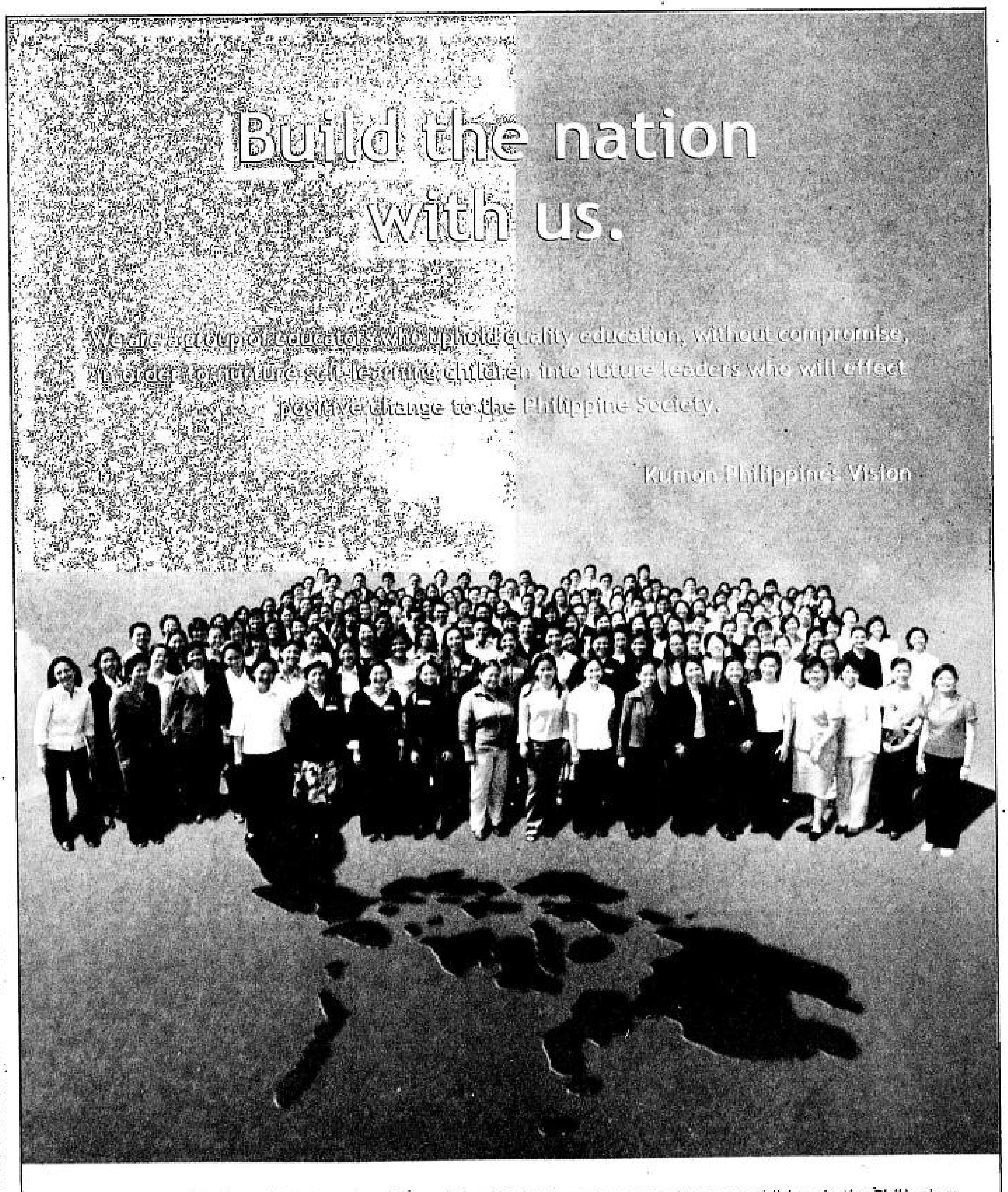
Build the nation with us.
We are a group of educators who uphold quality education, without compromise, in order to nurture self-learning children into future leaders who will effect positive change to the Philippine Society.
Kumon Philippines Vision

Take part in our mission of bringing our unique self-motivated learning method to more children in the Philippines, through invaluable training in calculation and reading comprehension, coupled with the discipline of daily study. By adding to our growing list of over 150 centers nationwide, you can help develop the boundless potential of these young minds.

Join us in upholding quality education to help raise a nation of achievers. Come to our Free Franchise Orientation on June 25, 2005 at the 19th Floor, Philamlife Tower, 8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City from 9 AM to 5 PM. For seat reservations, please call 885-0226.

Kumon Philippines, Inc.
19th floor, Philamlife Tower, 8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
tel: 885-0226 fax: 885-0251 e-mail: inquiries@kumon.com.ph
website: www.kumon.com.ph

KUMON

'Dressing up' salads

From page D1

- Mushrooms—button, shiitake, portobello, etc., sautéed in a little oil
- Eggs —hard-boiled
- Fruits fresh—avocado, mangoes, oranges, cantaloupe, etc.
- Dried fruit—figs, apricots, etc.
- Vegetables grilled—eggplant, zucchini, squash, tomato, onions, etc.
- Processed meats—bacon (fried and chopped) ham, salami, etc.
- Cheese—parmigiano (grated or shaved), mozzarella, feta, blue, etc.
- Croutons—2 tbsp butter, 1/4 c olive oil, 2 large garlic cloves (pressed), 4 French bread slices, cut into 3/4-inch cubes—toss and bake until crisp
- Olives
- Capers
- Pasta—screw type
- Add-ons: grilled, roasted, grilled or poached fish, meat, chicken, prawns

Dressings

Ranch

3/4 c mayonnaise
1/4 c sour cream
1/4 c cream
2 tbsp powdered milk
1 tbsp water
1 tsp garlic, chopped
2 tbsp finely chopped fresh parsley
2 tsp fresh dill or 1/2 tsp dried dill
2 tsp chives, chopped
1/2 tsp fresh lemon juice
1 tsp Dijon mustard
3/4 tsp onion powder
salt and pepper to taste

- Blend ingredients together.

Curry

1 teaspoon minced garlic
1/2 teaspoon minced peeled fresh gingerroot
1/4 c cream
1 tbsp white wine vinegar
3/4 tsp curry powder
pepper flakes to taste
2-3 tsp sugar to taste
salt and pepper to taste

- Mix ingredients until blended.

Caesar

2 whole 1 minute eggs (Bring water to a boil and put egg in, cook 1 minute. This lessens risk of salmonella.)
1 garlic clove, pounded
2 tsp anchovy paste
2 tsp mustard
1/3 c olive oil
1 tsp lemon juice
salt and pepper to taste

- Combine ingredients in a bowl except olive oil and lemon juice. Mix well to blend.
- In a slow stream, add olive oil, and mix until thick and emulsified.
- Add lemon juice and season to taste.

Honey Mustard

3 tbsp honey
1 tbsp white wine vinegar
1 tsp Dijon mustard
2 tsp sugar or to taste
1/3 c corn oil
salt and pepper to taste

- Whisk honey, vinegar, and mustard in small bowl to blend. Gradually whisk in oil. Season with sugar, salt and pepper to taste.

Thousand Island

1 c mayonnaise
1/3 c ketchup
1 tsp Worcestershire sauce
1 tsp Tabasco
2 tsp sugar
3 tbsp pimiento, chopped
1 hard-boiled egg, finely chopped
3 tbsp pickles
1 tbsp Dijon mustard
2 tbsp chopped green onion

- Mix ingredients to combine.

Vinaigrette (use as is, or as a base to add other ingredients to)

2 tbsp Dijon mustard
1 tbsp red wine vinegar
4 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
Salt and pepper to taste

- Whisk the mustard and the red wine together in a bowl. Slowly whisk in the oil until the mixture is thickened. Taste for seasoning. To thin the vinaigrette, add water.
- Variations: Add minced shallot or garlic, minced fresh herbs, lemon zest and juice, cracked black pepper.
- You can replace olive oil with other types of oil, i.e. walnut, garlic, citrus
- Experiment with other vinegars—white wine, raspberry, tarragon, etc.

Fruit-based Vinaigrette

1 1/2 tbsp white wine vinegar
3 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
2 tbsp fruit preserve of choice (jam or jelly)
salt, pepper and sugar to taste

- Whisk ingredients together to emulsify.

My cooking class schedules for July and August are now available. Call 9289296 for inquiries.

For questions and comments, text 0917-8399888.

DIM SUM for a song. A plate this big for P550 at China Bistro

HENY SISON
CULINARY SCHOOL

THE ESSENTIAL COOKING SERIES: This 20-day hands on class is our innovative way of teaching the basics of cooking & baking. This program is for anyone who wants to work towards becoming a professional chef. Class begins July 20 – September 20, 2005. Classes are held every Wednesdays & Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.Tuition fee includes ingredients, manual, aprons, chef's jacket and chef's kit.
For more information call 726-5316 or 412-7792 and ask Lirio & Rita

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

July 1 (Friday)9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.(classroom A) BASIC CAKES & ICINGS FOR BEGINNERS by: Heny Sison" Butter Cake with Butter Icing, Moist Chocolate Cake with Fudge Icing, Mocha Cake with No-Melt Butter Icing, Lemon Chiffon Cake with Boiled Icing & Sponge Cake with Whipped Cream Icing.P1,500

July 1 (Friday)2:00 – 5:00 p.m.(classroom A) BROWNIES & BARS by: Heny Sison" Chewy Moist Brownies, Carrot Cake Bars with Cream Cheese Icing, Lemon Cheesecake Bars, Brownies with Caramel Center & Butterscotch Bars. P1,500

July 2 (Saturday)10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.(classroom A) SOUTH BEACH DIET PHASE I by: Jacqueline Haessig Alleje, owner of Rizal Dairy Farm, Swiss-Pinoy restaurateur (Vieux Chalet Swiss restaurant), organic caterer and food consultant (Petra's naturally green, global, gourmet)" This class will guide you through the theory and the recipes of Phase I – the strictest phase of the diet and how to prepare them in your home. All participants will be weighed at the onset of the program. Inclusive of complete menu plan recipes and cooking demo. P2,800

July 4 (Monday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) COMMERCIAL BREAD BAKING WORKSHOP II by: Chef Jill Sandique, Food Consultant & Food Stylist, Blue Ribbon graduate at Peter Kumps New York Cooking School " Egg Pan de Sal, Foccacia, Pullman Loaf, Multigrain Bread, Dinner Rolls, Rye Bread, Brioche & Two kinds of Cinnamon Rolls. P2,500

July 4 (Monday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom B) NEW CLASS! COFFEEHOUSE FAVORITES by: Chef Jane Paredes, Food Consultant, trained at the Culinary Institute of America Hyde Park, New York and Peter Kump's New York Cooking School. " Ice Blended Drinks: Iced Café Mocha Java, Green Tea Chill, Vanilla Chill, Mocha Frappe; Pastries: Rum-Raisin Pistachio Bar, Dulce de Leche Ensaymada with Almonds, Lemon-Vodka Rum Cake, Chocolate Fudge Cookie, Prune & Walnut Coffee Cake and Crullers with Rum Glaze. P2,500

July 5 (Tuesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A)BAKED PASTA by: Chef Jill Sandique" Classic Lasagne, Manicotti, Chicken Mushroom and Ham Casserole, Baked Macaroni, Penne with Seafood and Asparagus.P1,700

July 5 (Tuesday)10:00 –4:00 p.m.(classroom B)BAKING I by: Heny Sison " Super Moist Chocolate Cake with Mocha Filling & Fudge Icing, Crispy Sylvanna, Cream Puff with Caramel topping, Prune Bars & Sables. P1,500

July 6 (Wednesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) NEW CLASS! NEW FRESH SAUSAGES & MEAT ITEMS TO MAKE AT HOME by: Chef Jane Paredes" Recipes: Spanish Style Chorizo, Chinese Sausage, Breakfast Sausage, Polish Kielbasa, Chicken Ham with Glaze, Chicken Liver Spread, Seafood Terrine and Hamburger. Demonstration with student participation. P3,000

July 7 (Thursday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom A)PHILIPPINE SWEETS & DELICACIES: PART III by: Chef Carol Acosta, food consultant to multinational food companies & restaurants" Manjar Blanco, Piyaya with Sesame Seeds, Buko Pastelitos, Empanaditas de Crema, Pineapple Tart and Torta Españols. P1,500

July 7 (Thursday)7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom B) THAI SPECIALTIES (WORKSHOP): PART 3 by: Chef Dino Guingona, graduate of California Culinary Academy and at the Thai Cooking School in Chiangmai " The class starts with a visit to the Farmers market in Cubao Q.C. led by Chef Dino Guingona, students will learn the proper selection and buying of ingredients. The rest of the morning will be spent on the preparation, afterwhich each participants gets to whip up Thai specialties such as: Recipes: Pomelo Salad with Prawns and Crabstick, Parrot Fish (Tom Yum), Crispy Fried Noodles (Mee Krop), Thai Spring Rolls (Po-pia Thot) and Sticky Rice Pudding with Mangoes. P2,500

July 8 (Friday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) TEMPTING CHOCOLATE DESSERTS II By: Chef Jill Sandique" Molten Chocolate Cake, Chocolate Cream Roll, Chocolate Fudge Cake, Cream Cheese Brownies, Chocolate Strawberry Tartlets & Chocolate Almond Buttercrunch. P1,500

July 9 (Saturday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) NEW CLASS! BEST-EVER BREAKFAST & BRUNCH by: Chef Jane Paredes " Churros con Chocolate, Egg Cookery, Waffle, French Toast, Croque Monsieur, Croque Madame, Sausage & Cheese Roesti, Huevos Rancheros, Eggs Benedict and Fresh Fruit Compote. P2,500

July 11 (Monday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) SOUTH BEACH DIET PHASE I by: Jacqueline Haessig Alleje, " This class will guide you through the theory and the recipes of Phase I – the strictest phase of the diet and how to prepare them in your home. All participants will be weighed at the onset of the program. Inclusive of complete menu plan recipes and cooking demo. P2,800

July 11 (Monday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom B) FAVORITE CHINESE FASTFOOD DISHES by: Chef Katherine Sion, restaurateur (Ding Hao & Fat Kat restaurant), caterer and an expert in Chinese cuisine. " Sweet & Sour Pork, Pinsec Frito, Steamed Chicken w/ Mushroom & Rice, Beef Curry Rice, Beef Pares, Lechon Macau, Sauteéd Vegetables w/ Oyster Sauce and Sauteéd Kangkong w/ Bagoong Sauce. P2,500

July 12 (Tuesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) POPULAR CHINESE DISHES FOR CATERING I by: Chef Katherine Sion, restaurateur (Ding Hao & Fat Kat restaurant) caterer and an expert in Chinese Cuisine " Sweet Corn Soup with Crabmeat, Braised Pata Tim with Vegetables, Saute Shrimps with Greenpeas & Quail Egg, Peking Noodles with Chopsuey, Fried Rice with Assorted Meats, Fried Crispy Chicken Chinese Style & Buchi. P1,700

July 12 (Wednesday)10:00 a.m. –4:00 p.m.(classroom B) PAELLA Y MAS (Paellas & More!) by: Chef Ed Quimson, is a seasoned master chef of Spanish origin, creator of RASTRO Tapas Bar & Restaurant at Rockwell and Chef Ed's Restaurant at Salcedo Village, Makati City. He has also lent his expertise to such restaurants as La Tasca, Via Mare, The Nielsen Tower, the Member's Lounge of the Phil. Stock Exchange & the Subic Yacht Club" Recipes: Paella Negra (w/ squid ink), Paella ala Montana, Paella Catalan (sin Tropezone), Paella Sevillana (Vegetarian), Paella Con Setas y Mejillones, Ensalada Especial & Pescado ala Sal. Demonstration with student participation. P2,500

July 13 (Wednesday)9:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m. (classroom A)PARADE OF PIES, TARTS & CHEESECAKES by: Heny Sison" French Apple Pie with Streusel Topping and Crème Anglaise Sauce, Turtle Pie, Banana Cream Pie with Whipped Cream and Caramel Topping, Mango Tart, Peach Walnut Pie, Blueberry Cheesecake and White Chocolate Cheesecake . P1,700

July 13 (Wednesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom B) PIZZA CLASS WORKSHOP by: Chef Giorgio Bucciarelli, Master Pizzaiolo & Barista, food consultant of various Italian restaurants all over Metro Manila, graduated at Culinary Institute, Milan, Italy" In this class you will learn the history, concept and design of pizza making. Learn how to make pizza dough, tomato base sauce, white sauce base, preparation, setting up a pizza counter, know the ingredients and toppings. Recipes: Margherita, Napoli Classica, 4 Formaggi, Pizza Vegetariana, La Gitana, Piccantina, 4 Stagioni, Calzone & Frutti di Mare. Demonstration with student participation.P2,500

July 14 (Thursday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) NEW CLASS! BAKING SPECIAL FOR CHOCOLATE LOVERS by: Chef Vicky Villanueva, from Stars & Bizu,. Let Chef Vicky share with you her wealth of knowledge and experience of patisserie and restaurant concepts, skills, techniques & operations. "Chocolate Macaroons, Chocolate Italian Bread, Brownies, Chocolate Chip Cookie, Chocolate Tart, Chocolate Mousse, Lace Tuiles, Chocolate Pralines, Chocolate Marble Cheesecake Chocolate Truffle Cake. P2,000

July 14 (Thursday)10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.(classroom B) SUSHI CLASS by: Chef Koichi Kondo, licensed cook from Ehime, Japan and food consultant to various Japanese restaurants " Temaki-Zushi (Do-It Yourself Sushi Rolls), Bara-Zushi (Scattered Sushi), Inari-Zushi (Sushi Pockets), Futo-Maki Zushi (Thick-Rolled Sushi), Teka-Maki (Hand-rolled Tuna Sushi), Kappa-Maki (Sea Cucumber Sushi). P1,700

July 14 (Thursday)1:30 – 5:30 p.m.(classroom B)JAPANESE COOKING I (All Time Favorite Japanese Recipes)by: Chef Koichi Kondo" Miso Soup, Tempura, Nimono, Yakimono, California Maki, Chilled Soba, Noodles with Nori, Skewered Dumplings with Brown Sauce. P1,700

July 15 (Friday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) DIMSUM II by: Chef Katherine Sion" Steamed Pork Spareribs in Tausi Sauce, Chicken Siomai, Sharksfin Siomai, Two Colors Siomai, Wanton Mami and Egg Tart. P1,700

July 16 (Saturday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) SPECIAL FLOWER ARRANGEMENT By: Glenn Remorca" Learn the differentstyles of table arrangements & home decors. Demonstration, lectures and hands-on production. P3,000

July 18 (Monday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A)SOUTH BEACH DIET PHASE 2 & 3 by: Jacqueline H. Alleje, " South Beach Diet Phase 2 continues the discussion on the diet & healthy nutrition with recipes of Stage II. Participants will share their experience from stage I. South Beach Diet Phase 3 is the introduction to the most liberal stage of the diet. Complete meal plan & discussion on how to create your own recipes by including your favorite dishes in your diet. Inclusive of complete menu plan recipes and cooking demo. P3,500

July 18 (MOnday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom B)PHILIPPINE SWEETS & DELICACIES: BICOL by: Carol Acosta" Masapan de pili, Masapan Bars, Kasuy Tarts, Tamales & Maruya. P1,500

July 19 (Tuesday) 10:00 a.m. –4:00 p.m.(classroom B) KOREAN COOKING I: A WORKSHOP by: Chef Cecile Park, owner of Silla Korean Restaurant & food consultant to various Korean restaurants in Metro Manila" Beef Bulgogi (Tenderloin & ordinary), Chicken Bulgogi, Pork Bulgogi, Chap Chae, Mi Yuk Guk (Soups: Seaweeds, Beef or Tahong), Bibimbap & Kalbi Jim. P2,500

July 19 – 20(Tuesday - Wednesday)9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) CAKE DECORATING COURSE II by: Heny Sison " Add amazing new skills to your cake decorating – the world of icing flowers, distinctive borders, flower spray & specialty flowers. As a final project you will decorate a basketweave cake filled with cascading flower. Full participation. P4,000

July 21 (Thursday)10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) NEW CLASS! ROASTING CLASS by: Chef Ed Quimson, " Learn from this hands-on class the treasured family recipes of Chef Ed: Roast Beef, Crown Roast of Pork, Roast Iberian Chicken, Roast Leg of Lamb w/Apricot Glaze, Roast Duckling of Black Cherry & Brandy Sauce, Roast Turkey with Corn Bread, Chorizo & Chestnut Filling. Demonstration with student participation. P4,800

July 22 (Friday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A)NEW CLASS! HAM MAKING WORKSHOP by: Heny Sison" Each student will learn how to make Honey-Cured Ham, Sugar Glazing, and bonus recipe. P 4,000

July 23 (Saturday)9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon(classroom A) SPECIAL COURSE ON COOKIES by: Heny Sison " Chocolate Chip Cookies, Jam Thumbprint, Peanut Butter Cookies, Lemon Bars, Chocolate Cups, Oatmeal and Chocolate Crinkles. P1,500

July 23 (Saturday)1:00 – 5:00 p.m.(classroom A)BASIC RESTAURANT SKILLS by: Cecile Mauricio, former editor of Mabuhay Philippines (Philippine Airlines' in-flight magazine), is a communication and marketing consultant for various restaurants." Restaurant staff who can communicate well is the key to improved sales and services. A concise workshop for new waiters and waitresses, new restaurant owners, or a refresher course for regular staff. Course outline: Communication Skills, Personality Development, Customer Service, Sales & Marketing Concepts and Service Strategies. P1,500

July 25 (Monday)10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (classroom A) FRESH PASTA WORKSHOP by: Chef Giorgio Bucciarelli" Learn how to make pasta egg dough, green spinach dough, black pasta dough, different kinds of pastas: lasagna, green lasagna, ravioli, tortellini, cannelloni, fettuccine: green & black, stuffings for ravioli, tortellini and cannelloni. Sauces for lasagna, tortellini, ravioli & cannelloni. Recipes: Lasagna alla Bolognese, Lasagna al 4 Formaggi, Lasagna al Pesto, Cannelloni alla Ricotta and Spinaci, Ravioli alla Boscaiola al Burro e Salvia, Tortellini al 4 Formaggi, alla Panna Prosciutto e Funghi, Green Fettuccine alla Montanara, Black Fettuccine al Frutti di Mare. Demonstration with student participation. P2,500

July 25 (Monday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom B) INTRODUCTION TO SPANISH COOKING by: Chef Ed Quimson" Croquettas, Tortilla de Patata, Salpicao, Arroz Abanda, Alioli, Callos Al Estilo, Pescado Al Penalti. P2,500

July 26 (Tuesday)10:00 a.m. –5:00 p.m. (classroom A) NEW CLASS! ARTISINAL BREAD by: Jacqueline Alleje" Nothing equals the satisfaction of home baked breads. In this class you will learn how to bake savory and sweet quick breads. Use your newly acquired knowledge for business by creating your own specialties appealing to your target market, or simply for baking at home, specially if you are health conscious, so that you can choose the ingredients according to your needs and standards. You will learn how to bake all sorts of delectable home treats through the easy-to-follow recipes and instructions. Likewise learn how to cost and adjust ingredients to meet your price target without compromising the quality to satisfy your discriminating customers. Recipes: Swiss Farmers Bread, Rosemary Wheat Bread, Herb-Onion-Bacon Bread, Yogurt Graham Bread, Bread Sticks, Focaccia, Whole Wheat Yogurt Scones, Mango Tea Bread and Raisin Bread. P4,800

July 26 (Tuesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom B) INTRODUCTION TO CHINESE COOKING by: Chef Katherine Sion" A more comprehensive presentation on Chinese cookery and techniques. The chef will give you an overview of China's culinary history and its cuisine's essentials. Regional food will be taught including meat, poultry, seafood and vegetable cookery. Practical tips on menu planning and manner of serving will also be included. Menu: Dumpling Soup, Drunken Chicken, Prawns with Sweet & Spicy Sauce, Braised Ox Tail with Beancurd Stick in Pot, Saute Broccoli with Babycorn and Button Mushroom in Oyster Sauce, Roast Pork Spareribs, Young Chow Fried Rice and Mango Pudding. Demonstration with student participation. P2,500

July 27 (Tuesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) NEW CLASS! ADVANCED KOREAN COOKING CLASS by: Chef Cecile Park "Kimchi (Baguio Pechay & Raddish), Haemul Pajeon (Seafood Pancake with Several Vegetable), Samgye Tang (Ginseng Whole Chicken, Glutinous Rice & Ginseng), Teiga Calbi Chim (Spareribs Stew), Bulgogi Salad (Beef Tenderloin Barbecue with Vegetbales & Sauce), Tak Salad (Chicken Salad), Tak Dori Tang (Spicy Chicken Stew) and Chap Chae (Contemporary Restaurant Style). P2,500

July 28 (Wednesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) NEW CLASS! RECIPES FOR SUCCESS IN THE FOOD CART BUSINESS by: Chef Vicky Villanueva " You can start now!! How to make your own sausage, hotdog buns, waffle dog, commercial and gourmet burgers, burger buns, foccacia, pizza, lumpia 3 ways, amoy, vegetables & ubod and the secret behind a tender juicy roast chicken. Bonus-start up tips packaging. Managing your cost, ingredients, food safety and finding the right location. P1,900

HENY SISON AT JULIUS MAGGI KITCHEN
Nestle Building 31 Plaza Drive
Rockwell Center, Makati City

July 11 (Monday)10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.CHEESECAKE GALLERY "Cappuccino Cheesecake, New York Cheesecake, Pastillas de Leche Cheesecake, Caramel Cheesecake, White Chocolate Chunk Macadamia Nut Cheesecake and Piña Colada Cheesecake. P 1,500

July 18 (Monday) 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.BUNDT CAKES "Chocolate-Cheese Swirled Cake, Marbled Coffee Cake, Cinnamon Streusel Cake, Blueberry Coffee Cake and Orange Rum Cake. P 1,500

July 25 (Monday)10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. BASIC CAKES & ICINGS FOR BEGINNERS " Butter Cake with Butter Icing, Moist Chocolate Cake with Fudge Icing, Mocha Cake with No-Melt Butter Icing, Lemon Chiffon Cake with Boiled Icing & Sponge Cake with Whipped Cream Icing. P1,500

We are now accepting enrollees for ESSENTIAL BAKING & PASTRY SERIES. Class begins on September 2 – November 26, 2005 every Fridays & Saturdays.

TUITION FEE includes ingredients. Reservation is required. WEDDING & BIRTHDAY CAKE orders by appointment only. We sell Cake Decorating, Confectionery and Baking Supplies.

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Sylvia Reynoso-Gala
GOLD MEDALIST Academia de Gastronomos Madrid, Spain - 1964
Graduate : Full Course at Thai Cooking School, Oriental Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

ERNEST REYNOSO GALA
Graduate : Full Course at Thai Cooking School, Oriental Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand
Studied at Chopstick and Hongkong Town Gas Culinary Schools

LEARN AND EARN! PRACTICAL, EASY, EXACT RECIPES

Leni Reynoso-Araullo
CERTIFIED WILTON METHOD SCHOOL INSTRUCTOR, Chicago, U.S.A.
Masters in Cake Decorating, Wilton School, Chicago, U.S.A., 1974 under Martha & Stanley Wilton
Graduate : Chicago School of Cooking and Catering
Graduate : Full Course, Thai Cooking School at the Oriental Hotel, Bangkok
Studied cooking in Europe, South America & Hongkong
Co-founder, Reynoso Cooking and Baking School, March, 1963

JUNE 23 THUR 2:30 - 6:00PM - BUSINESS BAKESHOP BEST SELLERS! BIG UNIFORM SIZED FROZEN UP TO 6 MONTHS SILVANAS (MINI SANS RIVAL); BRAZO DE MERCEDES, CLASSIC CHOCOLATE MOUSSE CAKE; MACAPUNO PANDAN CAKE WITH MAGNOLIA GOLD BUTTER ICING. P1,200. BY MORELLA.

JUNE 24 FRI 2:30 - 6:00PM SOFTEST DOUGHNUTS FOR BUSINESS! - NO OVEN NOR SPECIAL EQUIPMENT NEEDED INCLUDES CHOCOLATE AND MARBLED DOUGHNUTS WITH SEVERAL FILLINGS. ICINGS; DIPS. PLUS BONUS RECIPES OF THICK SPANISH CHOCOLATE AND CHURROS P1,200. BY MORELLA.

JUNE 25 SAT 2:30 - 6:00PM - REYNOSO - GALA & ARAULLO KAKANIN! MELTS INTHE MOUTH SPECIAL RICE BIBINGKA, SAPIN SAPIN ESPESYAL; DELICIOUS, EASY TO MAKE RICE SUMAN; HOMEMADE HOPIA WITH MONGO OR UBE FILLING. BONUS RECIPE: APONG METYANG'S CASSAVA CAKE P1,500. BY MORELLA.

JUNE 26 SUN 2:30 - 6:00PM - BEST SELLER OVEN BAKED CHICKEN PIES IN MUFFIN CUPS: FLAKY EMPANADA, MELTS IN THE MOUTH MAMON, MAGNOLIA GOLD BUTTER SLICES, PUTO PAO. BONUS RECIPES OF MACAROONS; PUTO FLOUR UBE AND TRI-COLORED PUTO. P1,200. BY MORELLA

JUNE 27 MON 2:30 - 6:15PM - MULTI LAYERED, FLAKIEST CROISSANTS, PUFF PASTRY MEAT FILLED TURN OVERS, ASSORTED GLAZED DANISH PASTRIES. P1,200. BY MORELLA

JUNE 28 TUES 2:30 - 6:00PM MONEY MAKING FAST CART SPECIALTIES BY MORELLA DELICIOUS CORN DOGS, WAFFLE WITH HOMEMADE CHOCOLATE / CARAMEL; NACHOS "TOPOTOS" WITH MONTEREY MEAT FILLING AND CHEESE DIP, HOMEMADE SHAWARMA WRAP WITH BEEF FILLING AND CHEESE DIP P1,200.

JUNE 29 WED 2:30 - 6:00PM - 6 MONEY MAKING PIES AND CAKES BY MORELLA - NO BAKE GRAHAM LAYERED MANGO ICE BOX CREAM CHEESE CAKE; LIGHT BANANA LOAF CRUNCH SLICES SOLD IN BAKESHOPS. OATMEAL BUTTER CRUST BLUEBERRY BARS. FRESH BUCO PIE. CLASSIC EGG PIE. BANANA CREAM PIE P1,200.

JUNE 30 THU 2:30 - 6:00PM THE LATEST MONEY MAKING HOTEL & BAKESHOP BESTSELLERS! CHOCO LAVA CAKES(CHOCO CENTERS WILL OOZE OUT). "TARTUFO" (ITALIAN DOME CHOCOLATE COVERED ICE CREAM CAKE WITH CHOCO CAKE BASE CAN BE FROZEN FOR A MONTH OR MORE); CREAM PUFFS WITH BAVARIAN & CHOCO FILLING WITH 2 GLAZES. THE YUMMIEST OF NEW YORK RESTAURANT SCHOOL CHEF INSTRUCTRESS LORRIE REYNOSO'S BAKED CHEESE CAKE. P1,200 BY MORELLA.

JULY 1 FRI 2:30 - 6:00 PM BAKED BEEF MONTEREY BEEF TENDERLOIN STEAKS IN FLAKY CRUST WITH MAGNOLIA GOLD BUTTER SAUCE; HOMEMADE HAMBURGERS STUFFED WITH CHEESE, CREAMY GRAVY & MASHED POTATOES, BURANELLA(SEAFOOD PASTA) FRIED ONION RINGS; VERY LIGHT HOMEMADE PANCAKES WITH VARIATIONS (CHOCO MARBLE; CHEESE; CREAM STYLE CORN; BLUEBERRY) WITH WHIPPED BUTTER. P1,200. BY SYLVIA

JULY 2 SAT 2:30-6:00 PM - 7 FINGER PARTY FOOD WIITH COCKTAIL PUNCH - QUICHE LORRAINE (CHEESE CUSTARD SQUARES); CENTURY TUNA IN EGG POUCHES (HOMEMADE CREPES) DEBONED AND STUFFED MAGNOLIA CHICKEN WINGS, CRUNCHY WITH NUTS FRIED CHICKEN LOLLIPOPS WITH TARTARE SAUCE; CRISPY STUFFED SHRIMPS; MAGNOLIA CHICKEN POPSICLES WITH BROWN MUSHROOM GRAVY, NEW YORK RESTAURANT SCHOOL CHEF INSTRUCTRESS LORRIE REYNOSO PUNCH P1,200. BY SYLVIA

JULY 4 MON 2:30 - 6:30 PM BAGUIO'S FAMOUS RAISIN BREAD. AMERICAN TASTY, HONEY BREAD, BUTTER BREAD, BRAIDED CHEESE BREAD, MORELLA & ERNEST BIG PANDESAL. SUPER SOFT CARMELITE BREAD IN A BUNDT PAN DELICIOUS BREAD MADE EASY! P1,200. BY SYLVIA

JULY 5 TUES 2:30 - 5:30 PM - CHINESE COOKING. PATA TIM (BRAISED PORK SHOULDER) SPICED CHILI CRABS, PATA TIM (BRAISED DUCK WITH VEGETABLES), SWEET & SOUR PORK, YANCHOW FRIED RICE, SPICY PRAWNS CANDIED BANANAS DIPPED IN ICE P1,200. BY SYLVIA

JULY 6 WED 2:30 - 5:30 PM - MONEY MAKING BAKESHOP CAKES FOR BEGINNERS - COFFEE CRUNCH CHIFFON CAKE WITH WHIPPED CREAM ICING LENS #1 SELLING PRUNE WALLNUT CAKE WITH MAGNOLIA GOLD BUTTER ICING ZENAIDA NICHOLAS' VERY LIGHT BLUEBERRY TRUMPS FAVORITE CHEESECAKE HOMEMADE RHUM CAKE WITH FRESH ORANGE JUICE. P1,200. BY SYLVIA

JULY 7 THURS 2:30 - 6:00 PM OPEN A COZY KOREAN RESTAURANT - LEARN TO MAKE THESE KOREAN SPECIALTIES KIMCHI-SPINACH SALAD MIXED RICE WITH KOREAN BEEF; BEAN SPROUTS, KOREAN PORK BARBECUE; DEEP FRIED BEEF IN SKEWERS; CRAB & PORK FRIED RICE; KOREAN STYLE SOTANGHON; OJINGKO POKUM (SQUID IN HOT SAUCE; ROSE KUI; KOREAN BEEF STEW-TOPPED RICE PLUS KITCHEN-TESTED BONUS RECIPES. P1,200. BY SYLVIA

JULY 8 FRI 2:30 - 6:15PM - LIGHT AND AIRY ENSAYMADAS. CHEESE ROLLS, SPECIAL EGG PANDESAL, PANDESAL WITH FILLING CINNAMON ROLLS, BREADED-BAKING MADE EASY! P1,200. BY SYLVIA.

JULY 9 SAT 2:30 - 6:00PM - POPULAR JAPANESE DISHES 1; DELICIOUS KAMAMESHI; YAKITORI (JAPANESE CHICKEN BARBECUE IN SKEWERS) - TONKATSU (BREADED PORK CHOPS); GRILLED JAPANESE BEEFSTEAK WITH BELL PEPPER AND MONGO SPROUTS. MISO SOUP SUNOMONO WITH DILIS; VERY DELICIOUS SUKIYAKI! P1,200. BY SYLVIA.

JULY 14 THURS 2:30 - 6:00 PM - OPEN A PIZZA PARLOR - LEARN TO MAKE THESE ITALIAN FAVORITES MOZARELLA - TOPPED BIG & THICK CRUST PIZZA(BAKED IN A RECTANGULAR PAN), THIN CRUST PIZZA WITH DIFFERENT TOPPINGS FETTUCINE ALFREDO, SPHAGETTI CARBONARA, BREADED VEAL STEAKS WITH LEMON PEACHED-FILLED CREPES WITH FRUIT SAUCE PLUS 12 BONUS RECIPES OF PASTAS AND SANDWICHES P1,200. BY ERNEST

JULY 15 FRI 2:30 - 5:30PM - DELICIOUS RESTAURANT SPECIALTIES YOU WILL LOVE TO DO AT HOME! - GARLIC-ROASTED MAGNOLIA CHICKEN WITH PEPPER STEAK SAUCE. MONTEREY BEEF TENDERLOIN CUBES SALPICADO FETTUCINE WITH 3 DIFFERENT SAUCES PESTO (GARLIC BASIL) BLACK SQUID INK, CREAMY MAYO CHEESE, HIGHLANDS SALAD WITH OLIVES & BLUE CHEESE DRESSINGS. HOT CARAMEL BANANA FUDGE, BROWNIE PIE WITH CREAM PLUS BONUS RECIPES OF CENTURY TUNA BURGERS, BEEF BURGERS WITH DIFFERENT DRESSINGS P1,200. BY ERNEST

JULY 16 SAT 1:00 - 5:00PM - LEARN TO BAKE & DECORATE WILTON - ALL OCCASION COOKIES AT LIVING-WELL HOMESTORE. 3RD FLOOR PODIUM MALL ADB AVE., (ACROSS DISCOVERY SUITES), MANDALUYONG. P500. INCLUDING INGREDIENTS, SNACK. PLS. BRING 3 PIPING BAGS WITH COUPLERS, 1 STAR, 1 ROUND TIP (ALSO AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT THE STORE). PLS CALL MR. ELY TO RESERVE 628-9500 OR GOURDO'S - 887-4306; 845-1700. BY LENI R. ARAULLO. DEMONSTRATION HANDS ON METHOD.

JULY 17 SUN 2:00 - 6:30PM MONEY-MAKING SAUSAGES COURSE 3 - LEARN 7 OF YOUR FAVORITES FOOT-LONG HOTDOGS BEEF SAUSAGES JERKY USING "VIPPI" CASING USED FOR HOTDOG-MAKING WHOLE CORNED BEEF SERVED IN 5 STAR HOTELS & RESTAURANTS PORK HAMONADO & BEEF DE RECADO THE BEST PAMPANGO PORK TOCINO, LONGANIZA LUCBAN. P1,200. BY LENI R. ARAULLO

JULY 19 TUES 2:30 - 6:00PM SUPPLY COFFEESHOPS AND BAKESHOPS WITH THE 9 MONEY MAKING GOODIES FOR HOMEBUSINESS: CHEWY MALLOW BARS, LEBANESE DATE BOAT TARTS; CHOCO CRINKLES, BUTTERY POLVORON; BUTTERSCOTCH BROWNIES (YUMMIES). LENGUA DE GATO; DATE WALNUT COOKIES; CHOCO CHIP COOKIES: RUSSIAN TEA COOKIES P1,200. BY ERNEST (FOR TEENS AND ABOVE)

JULY 20,27, AUG 3 & 10 WED 9:00AM - 5:00PM (4 LESSONS) MASTER COURSE IN CAKE DECORATING, P4,500 INCLUDES LUNCH, SNACK & INGREDIENTS EXCEPT DECORATING MATERIALS LIKE PIPING BAGS, TIPS, ETC. AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT THE CULINARY STUDIO OR BRING YOUR OWN.
LESSON 1 FLUFFY BUTTER CREAM ICING TECHNIQUES IN COLORING BORDERS, SHELL ROPE, STAR LEAF, ZIGZAG "E" MOTION FLEUR DE LIZ. MAKE GARLANDS & SWAGS. BASKET WEAVING LATTICE DESIGN. 12 DIFF. DESIGNS FOR TOP & SIDES OF CAKE, DIRECT PIPING OF CAKE OR ROSE BOUQUET, SWEET PEA CARNATION.
LESSON 2 - 5 KINDS OF ICING INCLUDING MARSHMALLOW ROYAL TO MAKE SUGAR FLOWERS ON NAILS, TOOTHPICK & FLORAL WIRE. LEARN SUGAR MOLDING CAKES, FAN BOOTIES, BASKET CRIB, HEART MARY'S HEAD, THE LION KING DVD MUSICAL DESIGN CAKE. 2 ADULT "SEXY" CAKES EACH STUDENT MUST BRING TRAYBOX TO TAKE HOME CAKES.
LESSON 3 - MARZIPAN (FREE HAND) MOLDING & PAINTING OF FRUITS FIGURES & VEGETABLES LEARN THE MARZIPPAN ROSE, FIGURE & FRUIT PIPING DECORATE DIFFERENT DESIGNS ON MUFFINS. FOR INDIVIDUAL SERVINGS. WHICH HOTELS & LUXURY LINERS SERVE
LESSON 4 - HOW TO PREPARE DEBUTANTE /WEDDING CAKES; TIERED, STACKED, ETC. EACH STUDENT WILL DESIGN & DECORATE A WEDDING CAKE (STYRO) TO BRING HOME. PLS. BRING TRAYBOX.

JULY 21 THURS 2:30 - 5:30PM - MAX'S STYLE FRIED CHICKEN -, JOLLIBEE STYLE CHICKEN WITH GRAVY CHICKEN BURGER, DELISCIUOS POTATO SALAD, SIZZLING GRILLED PORK CHOPS. 4 SEASONS PUNCH RIPE MANGO JUICE, MELON TAPIOCA WITH SAGO; GREEN MANGO JUICE P1,200. BY SYLVIA

JULY 22 FRI 2:30 - 6:00PM - 10 MINI CHEWY BARS. WALNUT BARS, MANGO BARS LEMON BARS, BANANA CHIP BARS, PRUNE BARS, DATE NUT SQUARES, RAISIN BARS, CHOCO-MERINGUE BARS, RICOA CHOCO CHIP BARS, LEMONY NUT BARS P1,200. BY ERNEST

JULY 23, 30, AUG 6 SAT (3 LESSONS) 9:00AM - 5:00 PM FONDANT ICING 7 GUMPASTE FLOWERS COURSE. P3,500. INCLUDES INGREDIENTS LUNCH & SNACKS.
LESSON 1 DAISY TULIP . SAMPAGUITA, APPLE BLOSSOM & SWEET PEA, MAKE DIFFERENT KINDS OF LEAVES, STEAMENS & CALYXES FOR FUTURE USE.
LESSON 2 CAKE (STYRO) COVERED WITH FONDANT ICING & 'CUT GLASS' TECHNIQUE MAKE GUMAMELA, LILIES, STEPHANOTIS, CHRYSANTHEMUM, CARNATION, DAFFODIL WILTON ROSE, VICTORIA ROSE.
LESSON 3 ORCHID, GUMPASTE RIBBONS & SWAGS PREPARATION & DECORATION OF FONDANT WEDDING CAKE (FOR TAKE HOME). BY LENI ARAULLO

JULY 24 SUN - 2:00 - 6:30PM - MONEY-MAKING BACON AND SAUSAGE 4. AMERICAN BACON, CANADIAN BACON, CHORIZO DE BILBAO, GERMAN WHITE FISH SAUSAGE, LOIGANIZA ILONGA, INCLUDES ACTUAL SMOKING METHOD BONUS MORCILLAS (SPANISH BLOOD SAUSAGE) P1,200 BY LENI ARAULLO

JULY 29 2:30 - 6:00PM - 9 SPECIAL BARBECUE; BEEF TERIYAKI IN SKEWERS; PORK SPARERIBS WITH HOISIN SAUCE. MAGNOLIA CHICKEN DRUMSTICK IN HONEY SAUCE, SATE A JAM CHICKEN SKEWERS IN PEANUT SAUCE. BEEF RIBS WITH PEKING NOODLES, DELISCIOUS PORK SPARERIBS, NEW KOREAN BEEF BARBEQUE, NASIGORENG (INDONESIAN FRIED RICE) FERNANDO MIGUEL ERENETA CHICKEN HONEY, THE BEST PORK BARBEQUE SAUCE P1,200. BY ERNEST

JULY 31 SUN 2:00 - 6:00PM MONEY MAKING SAUSAGE 5. ITALIAN SALAMI PEPPERONI, LIVERWURST (GERMAN LIVER SAUSAGE), THAI HOT SAUSAGE, ILOCOS LONGANISA; BONUS FRENCH GARLIC SAUSAGE BY LENI R. ARAULLO (INCLUDES ACTUAL SMOKING METHOD). P1,200.

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RESTAURANT OPENS 6:00 PM TO MIDNIGHT (EXCEPT SUNDAYS)
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